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Brattleboro, Vermont • Wednesday, November 25, 2020 • Vol. XV, No. 48 • Issue No. 589 commonsnews.org

YOUR AWARD-WINNING, INDEPENDENT, NONPROFIT SOURCE OF NEWS AND VIEWS

Proposed rental ordinance returns to table

Brattleboro Selectboard hears of alternative programs but will take up the original proposal from Tenants Union in December

By Olga Peters
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—The Selectboard, having learned of potential alternatives to ease financial burdens for tenants and landlords, will reconsider an ordinance that would cap the upfront costs required to rent an apartment in town.

In December, the town will take up the proposal from the Tenants Union of Brattleboro (TUB) for a town ordinance that would prohibit landlords from collecting advance rent from a new tenant beyond the first month's rent and a security deposit.

Most housing organizations cite a 5-percent vacancy rate as a sign of a healthy rental market. Brattleboro's vacancy rate hovers around 0.5 to 1 percent. Supporters said capping these costs would increase tenants' access to housing in the town's tight rental market.

Opponents, however, worried the proposal would eventually increase costs for landlords and, therefore, hurt tenants who would presumably absorb these costs in the form of higher rents.

Special funds for landlords, tenants?

At the board's Nov. 17 meeting, Planning Director Sue Fillion outlined programs that could support tenants with upfront costs or help landlords recoup lost income from tenants who leave without paying for their last month — a problem that many property owners claimed in defending the practice during a public hearing about the ordinance in October.

In a memo to the board, Fillion presented a form of insurance called landlord risk-mitigation funds or landlord guarantee funds.

Such funds can be structured in a variety of ways. Ultimately, they "expand housing options for individuals facing housing barriers" by guaranteeing that landlords enrolled in the program receive reimbursement for such expenses as property damage, non-payment of rent, or eviction costs, wrote Fillion.

A hallmark of the mitigation funds is that tenants receive "a letter of credit" that they can give to the landlord.

Examples of how the funds can be structured included programs that support households that meet certain criteria, such as ones with veterans, low-income wage-earners, or people with criminal records.

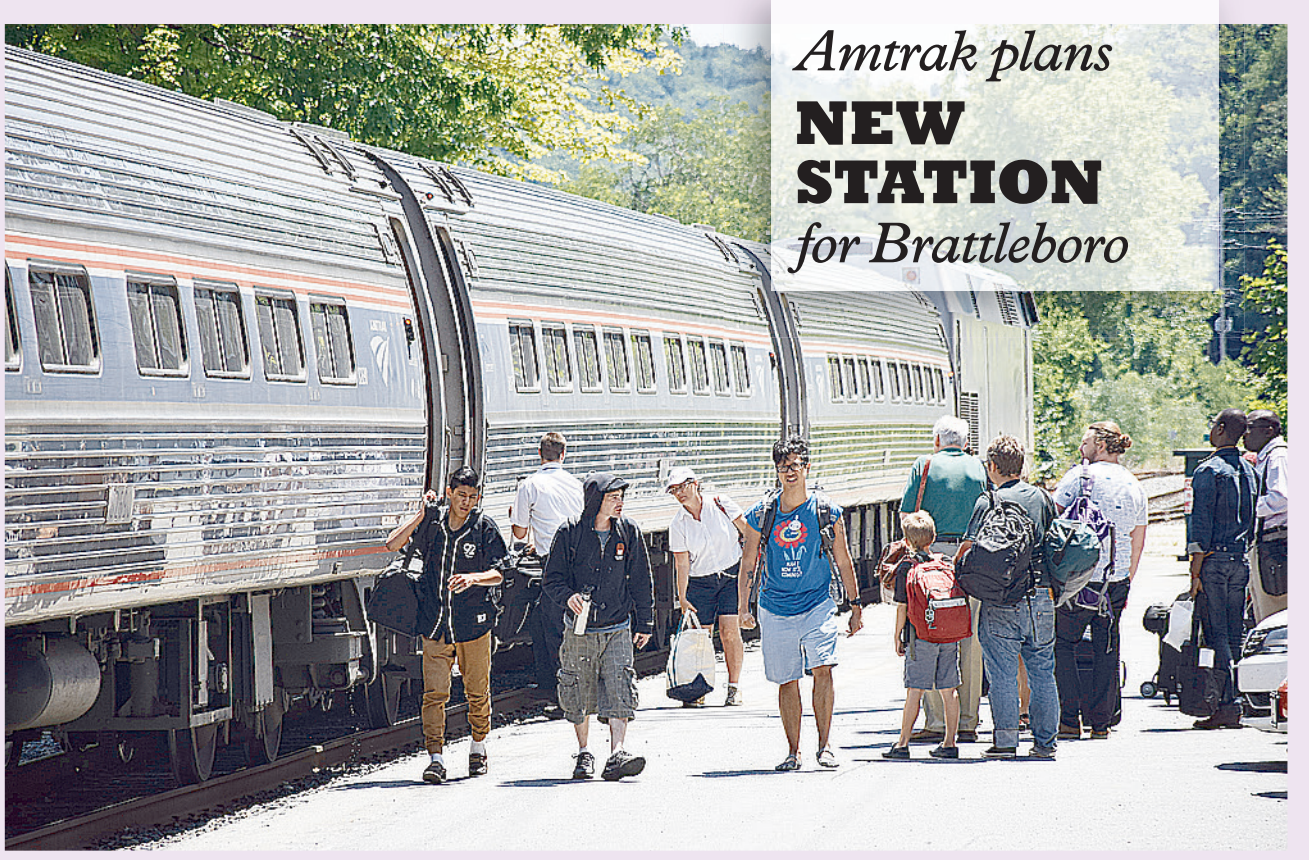
Money for these household-specific programs typically comes from a combination of public-sector sources, community organizations, and existing housing programs. Nonprofit organizations, municipalities, or charities operate the funds, according to Fillion.

The expenses such funds pay for are limited — for example, a fund might cover property damage and unpaid rent.

The funds can also be structured so that a tenant applies to the program or the landlord applies.

Fillion also outlined how a local housing voucher or grant program would work for income-eligible households to use in the private rental market. Landlords could also apply for insurance through the private insurance market.

■ SEE **RENT ORDINANCE**, A2



Amtrak plans
NEW STATION
for Brattleboro

RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/COMMONS FILE PHOTO
A southbound Amtrak Vermonter stops at the passenger platform of the Brattleboro station. Plans are in the works to build a platform that would be ADA-compliant.

Proposed building would be ADA-compliant, with changes to platform and track

By Randolph T. Holhut
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—Though no passenger trains have been stopping here since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Amtrak says it is in discussions with the town, the New England Central Railroad, and the state on a feasibility study for a new station that is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

According to a Nov. 19 news release from Amtrak, the new station would be located on Depot Street, directly across from the current station stop. It would feature the first level boarding platform in Vermont.

Measuring approximately 48 inches above track, the proposed new platform will allow passengers to move on or off a train without having to step up or down.

Additional ADA-compliant amenities include parking, ramps and steps up to the platform level, lights, signage, a new waiting room with an attached restroom, and covered outdoor seating.

Amtrak's daily passenger train, the *Vermonter*, has not run in Vermont since

■ SEE **AMTRAK STATION**, A2

RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/COMMONS FILE PHOTO
The passenger platform at the Greenfield, Mass., Amtrak station is an example of an ADA-compliant platform of the type that is proposed for the Brattleboro station.

Action plan for the arts supports state's creative economy

Dozens from Bennington, Windham Counties join online event to discuss joint priorities

By Olga Peters
The Commons

Participants of the Vermont Creative Network's IdeaJam in a videoconference on Nov. 17 highlighted their curiosity, optimism, and desire to collaborate.

Conversations within the online event focused on how the region's creative workforce adapted their work, and how they want to move forward, using other skills from their creative toolbox such as problem solving and experimentation.

The network — authorized by the Legislature in 2016 and operating as an initiative of the Vermont Arts Council — is developing the state's first creative sector action plan, with a goal of building a thriving creative economy that connects creative workers to resources and furthers Vermont's reputation as the most creative state in the country.

Another goal: getting the arts a seat at the table with other respected economic sectors.

"People always think of the arts as sort of icing on the cake," said Robert McBride, a Network member and longtime arts champion in Rockingham.

"I'm particularly interested in [southern Vermont] really highlighting the economic impact that artists and creatives play in our economy," he said. "And I think our challenge is to be at the table with the other economic sectors and drivers and to be recognized as that."

Far from being expendable, the arts are part of what will help communities weather COVID-19 "by keeping us alive and vital, and connecting to each other," McBride said.

Last year, approximately 9.3 percent of the jobs in Vermont were within the creative sector. According to the network's research, that percentage is higher than the national average.

Almost half of those creative workers are self-employed or freelance.

Meanwhile, despite the state's higher-than-average number of creative jobs, the state's creative sector's growth from 2010 to 2018 is creeping behind the rest of the country's.

Sting of a pandemic

This year, Vermont's creative sector has felt the global pandemic's sting.

With much of the creative sector's work dependent on human interaction, reducing the number of people who can gather in one space and canceling live performances have meant significant financial losses for the creative economy.

Americans for the Arts, a national nonprofit, estimates the national financial impact on the creative sector as $14.1 billion. Data reported by 137 Vermont organizations show an average impact of $20,200 per entity.

The Vermont Creative Network — a collective of organizations from across the state focused on strengthening the creative sector — stretches beyond what is traditionally considered creative fields, such as two-dimensional art or performance.

Anyone interested in the state's creative economy is welcome, said the event's host, David Hohenschau, a principal

■ SEE **ARTS ACTION PLAN**, A3

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A publication of
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The newspaper is free, but it is supported by readers like you through tax-deductible donations, through advertising support, and through support of charitable foundations.
The paper is published weekly, with early production schedules scheduled for most fifth Wednesdays of the month. In 2020, papers will be published early on July 29, Sept. 23, and Dec. 30.

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Simi Berman, Diana Bingham, Jim Maxwell, Bevan Quinn, Gino Palmeri, Barbara Kono, Beth McKinney, Anne Koplinka-Loehr, Rob Bertsche, Barbara Evans, Stephen Phillips, Jon Potter and LatchisArts, Jon Mack and Hooker-Dunham Theater & Gallery Emily Cox and Henry Rathvon
In memoriam:
Alan O. Dann

Brattleboro adopts new goals to reduce emissions

Pledges to meet benchmarks of state's new Global Warming Solutions Act

By Olga Peters
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—The town has pledged that, within five years, it will have reduced carbon emissions within its borders by 26 percent of 2005 levels.

The Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt the carbon emission goals proposed by the Town Energy Committee.

The committee has proposed that carbon emissions be cut by 40 percent of the town's 1990 levels by 2030 and further cut by 80 percent of the town's 1990 levels by 2050.

The aim of reducing carbon emissions is to slow the effects of climate change.

According to the national organization, the Union of Concerned Scientists, heat-trapping gasses such as carbon dioxide contribute significantly to global climate change, trapping heat within the Earth's atmosphere.

To slow the effects of global warming, communities need to reach "net zero" emissions — where the amount of these gasses entering the atmosphere is on balance with the amount taken out — by 2050.

Earlier this year, the Vermont Legislature passed the Global Warming Solutions Act, which both codified the state's goals around reducing carbon emissions and established an accountability process.

According to Selectboard Chair Tim Wessel, the town also voted to follow the goals of the Paris Climate Accord in 2017.

In 2002, Brattleboro passed a resolution to reduce greenhouse gasses produced by the municipality and to align with goals outlined by Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, a project of the United Nations.

In an Oct. 1 memo to the Selectboard, Sustainability Coordinator Stephen Dotson wrote, "Since that 2002 resolution, although some municipal emissions have been reduced, new targets have not been set and a strategy has not yet been defined for meeting new targets.

"The science is much clearer now that the projections of temperature increase during the next few decades could lead to devastating consequences, and there is a desire in our community to make the necessary changes."

Dotson also informed the board that the proposed goals "are likely to be inadequate to achieve the best-case climate scenario."

Still, matching the state's emission goals will benefit the town in other ways.

Aligning with the state could move the town into a stronger position when requesting state or federal funding, Dotson wrote. Other benefits include valuable PR and the chance to work with other towns to help the region and state.

The goals should also provide the launching point for a climate action plan and strategy unique to Brattleboro, said Dotson and members of the Energy Committee.

One challenge, Dotson noted, was that while the goals are based on using carbon emission levels from 1990 and 2005, the town does not have data for those years.

Also, while the goals should include all sectors within the town, the municipality can't control the commercial, residential, and institutional sectors, he added.

"We can infer this [climate] data from a variety of accepted tools," wrote Dotson. "There are many ways in which the town can influence these sectors."

Wessel and Board Vice Chair Liz McLoughlin took issue with the proposal, saying the goals appeared more symbolic than actionable or measurable.

McLoughlin added that when Town Meeting members approved funds for the sustainability coordinator position, she thought that the position was supposed to lead to concrete actions, not more goals.

Board member Daniel Quipp said that without reliable data, the board has nothing on which to base its conversation.

Deep into the discussion, board member Brandie Starr said she had been ready to vote for the previous 20 minutes.

Rep. Mollie Burke, P/D-Brattleboro, told the board she supported the proposal and disagreed that the goals were only symbolic.

Town Meeting Member Franz Reichsman said he was "shocked" at the board's discussion. In Reichsman's opinion, the board was "undermining" the work of a citizen committee.

Wessel said the board did not intend to "bash" the committee. He wanted to see tactics for reducing emissions.

Rent ordinance

FROM SECTION FRONT

In her memo, Fillion also highlighted her office's work to update municipal regulations to encourage the creation of new rental housing.

On Sept. 1, the Selectboard approved an interim zoning bylaw that Fillion described as "a good illustration of the effect that regulations can have."

According to Fillion, the interim bylaw accomplished two goals. First, it removed density standards for the town's thickly developed parts of town. In areas of town zoned as Residential Neighborhood, the bylaw opened the door for multi-unit buildings.

Since its approval, permits have been issued for 18 new rental units, with 13 of those units possible only because of the bylaw, Fillion wrote in her memo.

The Planning Office's review of town land-use regulations continues with an eye to identifying regulations that inadvertently increase development costs, she said.

Fillion hopes to hear by the end of December whether the town will receive a Municipal Planning Grant from the state Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) to create a housing action plan.

Can CDBG funding seed a fund?

As part of the board's consideration of the ordinance to cap upfront rental costs, board members had asked Town Attorney Robert Fisher to return with information.

Fisher was tasked with investigating whether the town could use Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies to fund rental support programs.

CDBG funds — ultimately federally funded — come to communities through the state ACCD to support housing and economic development projects.

In a nutshell, no, answered Fisher.

Use of community development funds are restricted to developing housing and other economic programs and aren't allowed for rental programs except in very limited situations (such as when tenants are displaced by other programming, like redeveloping an apartment complex).

Board member Daniel Quipp said that the state received federal funds through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) to help people access or stay in housing.

Lawmakers earlier this year allocated more than $80 million of the state's $1.25 billion CARES funding to housing.

The problem, said Quipp, is that Vermont does not have enough housing.

Amtrak station

FROM SECTION FRONT

the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March. The Vermonter is financed primarily through funds made available by the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), the Connecticut Department of Transportation, and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

Gov. Phil Scott said that he welcomed Amtrak's commitment to upgrading the station and that he held out hope for the resumption of train travel to and from the state.

"As we work to increase and improve passenger train travel throughout Vermont, these improvements to the Brattleboro Station will greatly benefit travelers from Vermont and the region," said Gov. Phil Scott. "We look forward to resuming Amtrak service in Vermont as quickly and safely as possible. We'll be watching the regional COVID data closely and hope to start service again as nearby counties see lower caseloads."

Since the start of Amtrak in 1971, the Brattleboro station has been located in the baggage area of Union Station, now the home of the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center.

Despite the lack of amenities, it had been, pre-pandemic, one of the busiest stations in Vermont. In Amtrak's 2019 fiscal year, 16,765 passengers came through the station.

"This project began as a joint effort by Amtrak and the town of Brattleboro to bring our existing station into ADA compliance," said Town Manager Peter Elwell.

"Thanks to the commitment and collaboration of Amtrak, VTrans, elected and appointed officials at all levels of government, and the host railroad, we now will have a brand new station that will exceed minimum ADA compliance to provide a fully accessible facility that also will enhance the local built environment and our regional economy," Elwell added.

Amtrak Vice President of Stations, Facilities, Properties and Accessibility David Handera said he is "very pleased to receive positive feedback from the various stakeholders on the design of this station that will provide modern accessibility features for a better customer experience."

Vermont's Congressional delegation also praised Amtrak's proposal.

"Vermont's weather presents challenges to travelers all year round," said U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt. "Amtrak's investment in an ADA-accessible platform and station will ensure that all rail passengers in Brattleboro will have a safe, warm, welcoming place to wait for and board the train."

"Improving our public transportation infrastructure is a key step in combating climate change and transforming our economy into one that is more energy efficient," said U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. "This proposal is an important first step, and I look forward to it becoming a reality."

"Passenger rail is a real priority for Vermont businesses and local communities," said U.S. Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vt. "I'm pleased to hear that this proposed station in Brattleboro will exceed accessibility requirements for those with disabilities. This an important step to make Vermont more accessible."

Plans call for Amtrak to continue to staff the new facility with an attendant within an hour of a train's departure or arrival time and for the station to feature a bike rack and a covered outdoor space.

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Two nonprofits plan new housing project in West B

Windham & Windsor Housing Trust, Groundworks Collaborative launch new permanent supportive housing community at former Dalem's Chalet

By Randolph T. Holhut
The Commons

WEST BRATTLEBORO—A longtime motel and restaurant at 78 South St. will become a new source of permanent housing and supportive services to individuals who now are sheltered in motels.

Dalem's Chalet Inc. sold the property, with its almost 18 acres, to WWHT on Sept. 23 for $968,750.

Windham & Windsor Housing Trust (WWHT) and Groundworks Collaborative last week jointly announced that both nonprofits are partnering on a new project to be called the Chalet, which will repurpose the longtime motel and restaurant into new housing resources.

In a news release, the two organizations called the project "a significant step towards ending homelessness in Brattleboro."

WWHT purchased the Chalet with funding from the federal government via the CARES Act through the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board, from NeighborWorks America, and from a private loan through Brattleboro Savings & Loan.

With an extensive portfolio in redevelopment, WWHT has been able to quickly line up contractors to renovate the building, as the funding must be used by the end of the year.

Individual rooms at the Chalet are being updated with new furniture, fixtures, flooring, and paint.

Renovations to the entire building include installation of a sprinkler system, a fire alarm system, and accessibility improvements in bathrooms. Exterior work includes making walkways and stairs compliant with current building codes and regrading parking lots.

The largest-scope items include installing new windows and doors to improve energy efficiency while working to maintain the historic charm of the property, which opened in 1964.

A pandemic problem

In March, the state of Vermont opened motel rooms as shelter to ensure everyone in the community could safely isolate and reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The measures put a spotlight on a fuller picture of the need for housing across the region and the state.

State officials acted quickly to implement an expanded motel voucher system and made it available to every Vermonter who lacked shelter. CARES Act funding was used to negotiate lower nightly rates and effectively take over entire properties to house homeless individuals.

At the region's height of the pandemic in March and April, Brattleboro housed more than 150 people in several area motels. Groundworks currently supports more than 100 people who are still living in motels.

In Brattleboro, this scramble for temporary shelter in the midst of a public health crisis showed the urgent need for more permanent, affordable housing.

The town ranks high in a number of areas due, in large part, to the extremely limited amount of affordable housing, with vacancies currently hovering around 1 to 1.5 percent.

That statistic would reflect a scenario where no apartments would be available on any given day.

Similar to what Groundworks has done with Great River Terrace, the supportive housing complex that opened in 2018 at the former Lamplighter Inn on Putney Road, the Chalet will become home to people coming out of the motel program and offer a safe, supportive place to distance physically while offering a stable foundation through permanent housing.

"A bright spot that should be celebrated in this pandemic is that we have interrupted homelessness as a foregone conclusion and have provided shelter across this state for everyone," Groundworks Executive Director Josh Davis said in a news release.

"The Chalet project is an opportunity to get people into housing and provide services on site to ensure they remain successfully housed," he added.

Davis said that the Chalet is more than a bricks-and-mortar project. It's another example of the "three-legged stool" approach to reducing homelessness.

Such strategies include making available and funding housing units, offering rental subsidies to bridge the gap between the cost of rent and what a resident can afford to pay, and providing supportive services for residents who often are navigating complex mental- and/or physical-health issues.

WWHT and Groundworks Collaborative both describe a five-year track record of working together to deliver housing-based supportive services within both scattered-site and place-based models such as Great River Terrace.

A combination of 25 project-based and rapid-rehousing vouchers have been approved by the Vermont State Housing Authority (VSHA) and the Vermont Agency of Human Services for The Chalet.

Davis said a number of individuals who temporarily live in motels already hold mobile vouchers, which means that they could be in housing today, except that no units are available.

This scenario highlights the ongoing shortage of affordable housing in Brattleboro.

Supportive services are the most integral piece to the success of this approach. Groundworks will be the lead service provider at The Chalet, offering on-site supportive services to residents seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Groundworks is also coordinating a quilted plan for case management provided by multiple service providers in the community to meet the comprehensive need for supportive services.

Case management will be contributed in-kind by participating agencies. Pathways Vermont, Health Care & Rehabilitative Services (HCRS), and Youth Services have all committed to providing case management coverage for the program.

Racing the clock

Because of the time-sensitive nature of the CARES Act funding, the project must be completed, with tenants occupying the property, by the end of the year.

The project has received support from the Vermont State Housing Authority, the Department of Corrections, Vermont Housing & Conservation Board and the generosity of private donors.

WWHT is also pursuing grant funding through human services grants offered through the town of Brattleboro and from several private and corporate foundation grants.

"We are so pleased to once again partner with Groundworks Collaborative to provide housing and supportive services to people who need it the most," said WWHT Executive Director Elizabeth Bridgewater, "especially now, when it is abundantly clear that the health of our community is deeply connected with the health of every community member, everyone needs a safe place to call home."

Bridgewater said that WWHT "was able to quickly respond to several opportunities to create new housing during this pandemic."

This fall, WWHT also launched the Re-housing Recovery Program, which helps landlords create or rehabilitate rental units.

"These two initiatives are projected to create approximately 85-90 new housing opportunities by year end," Bridgewater said.

Groundworks to open motel-based Seasonal Overflow Shelter for winter of 2020-21

BRATTLEBORO—The state's emergency motel voucher program is set to continue providing motel rooms as COVID-safe shelter through March 31, 2021. Those who do not qualify for such lodging can take cover in a seasonal overflow shelter in a local motel.

Groundworks Collaborative has been providing support to more than 180 people from at least 100 households currently sheltering in Brattleboro motels.

Employees of the nonprofit have noted an increase in the number of people who are found ineligible for state-funded motel rooms.

"We are fortunate to live in a state that has prioritized shelter for people experiencing homelessness, by opening up motels and working with organizations like Groundworks to provide supportive services," Executive Director Josh Davis said in a news release.

Groundworks has put together a plan to open the Overflow Shelter in the conference room of one Brattleboro motel where the organization's staff already provide supportive services to residents.

"We need to continue to ensure safety for anyone in need of shelter throughout the coming winter," said Groundworks' Director of Operations Rhianna Kendrick.

The plan has a tentative start date of Nov. 30 and will allow emergency shelter beds for people found ineligible for emergency motel vouchers as well as people newly seeking shelter in the Brattleboro area.

No one currently in a motel room will have to leave.

Davis reports that the daytime shelter on South Main Street will open in the organization's new building on April 1, "once we can transition our staff out of the motels and fully open the new Day Shelter."

The 2021-22 Seasonal Overflow Shelter will operate in the new building on South Main Street beginning in November 2021.

At this time, Groundworks is working through community partners to provide meals for the occupants of the additional shelter beds.

The organization is not calling on its cadre of volunteer meal teams in the short term, except for those interested in providing homemade dishes for the upcoming Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's holiday meals for people sheltering in motels.

Anyone interested in helping in this way should contact Groundworks at **meals@GroundworksVT.org**.

Arts action plan

FROM SECTION FRONT

in Community Workshop, a Vermont-based planning agency.

"We want to always make the point that this is not just for artists or just for creatives," he said. "We welcome real estate developers and plumbers and teachers — and just about anybody who thinks they care about the creative economy in Vermont."

A plan years in the making

At its Nov. 17 IdeaJam, organizers with the Vermont Creative Network solicited feedback from participants about an action plan in development.

According to Hohenschau, the Network and the Arts Council, its parent entity, have worked on the plan for a few years. In 2019, a working group conducted surveys, held interviews, and gathered information about the state's creative economy.

Now the network is focusing on where it wants to go and is seeking input on its goals and its priorities.

"So we're looking for ways to organize our thoughts and build strategies around something like that, that speaks to what we're aiming for in our work," Hohenschau said.

During the IdeaJam, participants weighed in on selecting three priorities from a list of approximately 12.

Hohenschau added that the strategies contained in the final plan will include potential actions at the state, community, and individual levels.

So far, the network has established the following priorities based on feedback:

• Marketing the state's creative sector so that it become a part of the Vermont brand, with the goal of attracting and retaining young people and creative entrepreneurs.

• Investing in creative businesses and entrepreneurs by creating easier access to funding and business support.

• Education, training, and support for "emerging entrepreneurs" across all age groups, including high school, technical school, and college. Also, supporting these institutions in providing creative skills that match the needs of the state's workforce and businesses.

• Building cross-sector partnerships that amplify economic and community development.

• Increasing equity and inclusion in the creative sector.

The study is funded through major grants from Jane's Trust and the Windham Foundation. The Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the National Life Group Foundation, and the Ruth and Peter Metz Family Foundation have also contributed to the planning study.

The project's consulting team includes Massachusetts-based Mt. Auburn Associates and Melissa Levy of Community Roots.

Focusing on southern Vermont

While the IdeaJam focused on the statewide plan, it was also structured to help creative people from across the state connect to other people in their own regions.

The event's discussion rooms were broken into zones.

The Southern Vermont zone included Bennington and Windham counties and had the largest number of participants.

McBride, one of the conversation's coordinators, said his vision is to "crack down" the walls between the arts and other areas such as workforce housing and health care.

In doing so, he hopes to not only view those issues through a creative lens but also to understand "what connects us to the same challenges all other economic sectors face."

McBride reminded people they could subscribe to the network's quarterly e-newsletter. Each one focuses on a different topic impacting the creative sector, such as a discussion about the availability of broadband or the opportunity for creative people to meet their legislators.

Zon Eastes of Guilford, who has also worked at the Vermont Arts Council, told participants that the network and the newsletter provide ways of getting everyone onto the same page and sharing stories.

"Creativity is really at the center of what makes Vermont communities function," he said. "It's not about economic drivers. It's not about health care. It's not about one thing — it's all these things together being creatively mashed together, and we're all at work in our communities making things go."

Participants in the breakout session discussed a variety of topics, including how to bring their work to an audience outside the state.

Two suggestions: Sustaining the energy, funding, and programing of all-volunteer-run organizations — a problem some participants faced — and encouraging residents to ask their Selectboards to support community art through their town's budget.

Several participants stressed the importance of collecting better data on the creative economy.

"In places I've lived before, the other sectors usually didn't take the art sector seriously until there was data showing the economic impact," said Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts in Putney.

Marks reminded participants that the creative sector supports a variety of other sectors — for example, hospitality and retail. Without metrics, it can be hard to communicate this impact, he added.

"It's not just a feel-good impact of the arts, but there's an actual cultural impact that's felt [by] restaurants and the local stores, and there's lot of economic drivers that really are supported by this sector," Marks said.

Guinevere "Genny" Albert, executive director of Arts Bus, a child-education and -arts organization, shared how embarrassment had taught her a valuable lesson about performing during COVID-19.

Arts Bus recently performed a show outside for kids. One of the safety precautions organizers took was to spread large beach blankets six feet apart across the ground.

"I actually almost threw up before the first performance," Albert said. "I'm nearly 50 years old, and I was wearing a kind of trash bag with a hula hoop and an upside-down shoe. I mean, come on."

"But this year I thought that we have to push through some of that stuff and show people that if we accept the pandemic, and safety, as a condition of what we do — there are still ways to get our program out," she said.

The Vermont Creative Network has collected some data, which will soon be available at its planning hub, **createvt.org**. *To learn more about the planning study, visit* **vermontartscouncil.org/vermont-creative-network/vcn-resources/research/statewide-study**. *The network's next IdeaJam event is Tuesday, Dec. 1 and will focus on strategies. Find more information at* **createvt.org**.

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MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

College news

• **Corey Dunn** of Brattleboro enrolled for the fall 2020 term at Knox College in Galesburg, Ill.

• **Madison Fortier**, a member of the Class of 2022 from Brattleboro, was named to the Dean's List for the spring 2020 semester at Regis College in Weston, Mass.

Obituaries

• **Phyllis Q. Anderson, 97**, of Westminster. Died at home on Nov. 5, 2020, surrounded by her loving children. The daughter of Neal and Katharine Quimby, Phyllis was born in Newark, N.J., on May 18, 1923. She moved with her family between New Jersey and New York State, before they settled in West Orange, N.J. As a teen, Phyllis was active in the St. Cloud Presbyterian Church youth group and choir, where courtship with her future husband Henry (Hank) Anderson began. She and Hank were married in that same church on June 14, 1947 and enjoyed 64 wonderful years together. Phyllis graduated in 1943 with a teaching degree from Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Va. At the age of 20 she began teaching elementary school in Morris Plains, N.J., and later in West Orange. She retired in 1948 to begin raising her family, living first in West Orange and moving to Westfield, N.J., in 1952. Phyllis was devoted to her community and to her growing family. She served in various roles at the Westfield Presbyterian Church, as a Youth Chairman and driver for the local Red Cross, a Girl Scout leader, a driver for Meals on Wheels, and was one of the original docents and cooks for the Miller Cory House Museum in Westfield. She was an avid cheerleader for all nine of her children's activities, sports, and interests. Music was a lifelong love of Phyllis's. She played baritone horn in both her high school marching band and while at college and later with the Grafton Brass Band in Vermont. In her 20s, she organized a singing trio with her sister and cousin, performing for military servicemen in New Jersey during WWII. Over the years she sang with various groups, including church choirs, the Chansonettes of Westfield and barbershop quartets, and was a member of the Presbyterian Handbell choir. After retiring to Vermont, she became active in the First Congregational Church of Westminster through Women's Fellowship and choir and, with Hank, founded the church's handbell choir. Together they also founded and acted in the Westminster Follies for five years, which raised funds for the church and highlighted talented members of the community. She also enjoyed volunteering at the Westminster Center School and the Recycling Center. Phyllis was a board member emerita of Westminster Cares, a nonprofit organization serving the local senior population. Delivering Meals on Wheels to those in need since 1988, she later rode along the route with her son Don, until as recently as two weeks before her death. Her family is so grateful for the caring support the organization and its members gave to their mother in her last years. Among Phyllis's many hobbies and interests were antique collecting, chair caning, quilting, sewing, archery, jigsaw and crossword puzzles, bridge and board games, and she was an avid Mets and Patriots fan. Somehow she managed to coordinate many camping trips, eventually fitting all 11 family members into one tent. She organized countless family reunions and always remembered important occasions with a card or phone call to friends and family. Phyllis is survived by eight of her children: Sue Gioulis, Don Anderson, Wendy Schoenemann, Jill Kimber, Jennifer Anderson, John Anderson, Heidi Anderson and Bonnie Anderson, as well as 10 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. She is immensely missed by everyone. She was predeceased by her husband Hank, her sister Priscilla Wilson, her daughter Melanie DeLonge, and her granddaughter Greta Schoenemann. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of her life will be held in the spring of 2021. Donations to the First Congregational Church of Westminster or to Westminster Cares.

• **Florence Mary Brown, 87**, of Readsboro, formerly of Wilmington. Died Nov. 16, 2020 at Pine Heights nursing home in Brattleboro. Mary was born in Searsburg on Aug. 26, 1933, the daughter of the late Bertram and Marion H. Pool Akley. She attended Marlboro schools and graduated from Wilmington High School in 1951. Mary worked in various mills over the years, worked with her husband logging in the woods, operated the Deerfield Food Pantry for 11 years, and the food and beverage department at Mount Snow. She volunteered at the Windham County Humane Society in Dummerston, enjoyed crocheting, sketching in black and white, playing Bingo, and her animals. She was a member of the South Readsboro Community Club, was awarded Citizen of the Year honors by the town of Wilmington in 1998, and enjoyed spending time with her family. Mary is survived by her children Sharon Cox of Chicopee, Mass., Brenda Holden of Wilmington, and Clark Parris of Halifax; her sister, Bertha Akley, 11 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and a great-great grandson. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Walter Parris; her second husband, Joseph Brown, whom she married in 1962; son Lester Parris, grandson Shawn Parris, infant son Edwin Parris, and sisters Grace Crowningshield, Mildred Helen Wright and Ruth Davis. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Graveside funeral services will be announced at a later date. Donations to the Alzheimer's Association or the Windham County Humane Society, in care of Covey-Allen & Shea Funeral Home, P.O. Box 215, Wilmington, VT 05363.

• **Virginia C. Maurelli, 81**, of Bellows Falls. Died peacefully at home under hospice care on Nov. 10, 2020. She was born in Buffalo, N.Y., on Aug. 13, 1939, to Giuseppe and Filomena (Battaglia) Maurelli. She attended Buffalo State University, where she earned her bachelor's degree. She went on to teach in Buffalo and Miami, Fla. She moved to Vermont in 1966. She was a longtime member of the Christian Family Circle Church in Westminster and actively involved with Camp Blessing. She was a social worker with the state of Vermont from 1976 until 2000. After retirement, she returned to teaching in Claremont, N.H., and the Hopi Mission School in Arizona. She will be remembered by all who met her for her generous spirit, faith, her smile, laughter, spunk, hospitality and most importantly, her love of family. In her last days, she was embraced in love by both her given and chosen family. She was preceded in death by her parents; her infant daughter, Naomi; two brothers, John and Joseph Maurelli; and two sisters, Eva Hilderbrandt and Ruth Vastola. She leaves behind her lifelong companion, Don Schweisthal; two daughters, Lisa (Ted) Preister of North Dakota, and Ruth (Robert) Kenney of Montana; two granddaughters, Kayla Gilchrist and Helaena Preister; siblings Louis (Mary Ann) Maurelli and Rebecca (Richard) Wegner; and numerous nieces and nephews. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Due to the pandemic, a celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date. Donations to Camp Blessing (**campblessing.com**) or to the American Cancer Society.

• **Lisa M. O'dette, 55**, of Bellows Falls. Died suddenly on Nov. 16, 2020 at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H. She was born on Sept. 15, 1965 to Warren O'dette and Brenda Masure. After graduating from Bellows Falls Union High School in 1983, Lisa went on to enjoy a long and successful career as a hospitality manager. She was a laid back, lighthearted woman who enjoyed laughing and spending time with her friends and family, and the companionship of her Pomeranians. Her sassy and witty nature, along with her driven, never-quit mindset, will be missed by all who knew her. She leaves behind her son, Zachary Vancor, parents Warren and Brenda, younger brother Rodney O'dette, and her longtime partner Edward Vancor. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Services will be announced at a later date by Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home in Bellows Falls.

• **Ryan "Peanut" Paduano, 21**, of Pittsfield, Mass. Died unexpectedly on Nov. 14, 2020, while walking his beloved dog, Brownie. He was born on March 13, 1999 in Pittsfield. Ryan lived life to the fullest, always smiling and excited for the next adventure, be it lacrosse, skateboarding, bike riding, basketball, driving and off-roading with his Hyundai and Jeep, photography, video games, eating out, or anything to do with water and traveling (most recently to Cuba, Zion National Park, and multiple family reunions). He loved his family, friends, kids, and all animals. He loved big hugs and saying, "I Love You." Ryan is survived by his parents, Patricia and Loren Paduano of Pittsfield, brother Christopher (Alexandra) Paduano of Boston, sister Ashley Paduano of Pittsfield, grandmother Carol Bryant of Putney, and Nonno Vincenzo Paduano of Pittsfield. He also leaves his aunt Sue (Rudy) Rudolph of Berea, Ky., uncle Bruce (Andrea) Bryant of Houston, Texas, aunt Rosemary and cousin Kathleen Bryant of Chatham, Va., uncle Allan (Patsy) of Methuen, Mass., uncle Robert (Melanie) and cousin Aria Paduano of Pittsfield, and many, many close friends and all who came in contact with him and his outsized personality. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Funeral services were held Nov. 21 at Hope Church in Lenox, Mass. Donations can be made to BCARC Down Syndrome Family Group, or the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, in care of Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North St., Pittsfield, MA 01201.

• **Delia M. Zagoreos, 79**, of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Died Nov. 15, 2020 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie. Delia was born on Feb. 19, 1941 in Brattleboro to Alfred Leo and Martha Irma Gilson Root. She was a graduate of Brattleboro Union High School, Class of 1959. Delia married Anthony P. Zagoreos in 1962. He survives at home. Delia was previously employed for 11 years at IBM in Poughkeepsie in the personnel department. She was a member of the Kimisis Greek Orthodox Church. In addition to her husband, Delia is survived by her sons Dana (Dawn) Zagoreos of Peabody, Mass., Paul Zagoreos of Poughkeepsie, daughter Katherine (Sotiri Patatoukos) Zagoreous of Holiday, Fla., siblings Peter Root of Brattleboro and Diane Gerry of Tennessee, grandchildren Lily Victoria, Isabel, Savana Rose, and Ava Katina, and several nieces and nephews. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Services were held Nov. 20 at Kimisis Greek Orthodox Church in Poughkeepsie, with burial in Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery. Online condolences may be offered at **wmgmillerfuneralhome.com**.

Milestones are published as community news at no cost to families, thanks to financial support of our members and advertisers. Send them to **news@commonsnews.org.** *Though we ask that content for this column be sent by Friday at 5 p.m., we will do our best to include late obituaries. Please alert the newsroom at 802-246-6397 for post-deadline urgent submissions. We will always do our best to accommodate contributors in their time of grief.*

Two online classes offered by Brattleboro Area Jewish Community

WEST BRATTLEBORO—Cantor Kate Judd, spiritual leader of the Brattleboro Area Jewish Community, will offer two new classes on Zoom in the coming weeks.

• An ongoing weekly Torah and text study will be an exploration of the weekly Torah portion, drawing on traditional and modern commentaries, Midrash, poetry, Jewish law and custom, and lived experience.

This class is open to all. Regular reading of the portion and supporting texts is required — texts will be available online or sent by email.

Reading in Jewish religious texts beyond the weekly Torah portion is also possible, depending on the interests of the participants.

• "Introduction to Judaism," an 18-week class, explores questions: Just what is Judaism, anyway? A religion? A culture? A way of life?

This class is for anyone interested in exploring Jewish learning and life through a liberal Jewish lens, with insights from the more traditional world as well.

"If you are contemplating conversion, this is a great place to start," Judd writes in a news release. "If you are 'Jew-curious' — either as a Jew or as a person of another faith background — this class is for you."

She welcomes interfaith couples, those raising Jewish children, spiritual seekers, and "anyone who is looking for a meaningful adult Jewish learning experience."

Most readings will be available online or sent by email. Students may be asked to purchase some books.

Times and dates of both classes are to be announced according to the availability of participants. There is no cost for the classes, but donations are welcomed, especially from those who are not currently members of BAJC. Your contribution also makes you a member of the congregation.

For more information, contact Judd at **kate@bajcvermont.org** or 802-380-1677.

Brattleboro Rotary delivers 4,600 face masks locally

Million Mask Challenge brings equipment to organizations via local Rotarians

BRATTLEBORO—Members of the Brattleboro Rotary Club recently visited several businesses and nonprofit organizations to deliver 4,600 face masks contributed as part of the Rotary Million Mask Challenge Tour.

The tour traveled through six states and stopped at nine major municipal centers to deliver 800,000 masks to awaiting Rotarians. An additional 200,000 masks were distributed across Connecticut in the spring, making the total one million.

Local recipients of the donated personal protective equipment included Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, Brattleboro Retreat, Garden Path Elder Living, Turning Point of Windham County, Windham Southeast Supervisory Union, Windham Central Supervisory Union, Youth Services, and Groundworks Collaborative.

"It felt like we met a genuine community need as we made the deliveries," said Brattleboro Rotary Club member and project chair Regina Stefanelli. "Sadly, organizations have plenty of opportunities to use mask donations."

The Million Mask Challenge was launched by East Hampton, Conn., Rotarian Ted Rossi and the Rossi Family Foundation, which donated the masks.

Rotaries throughout New England are distributing the masks to first responders, human services agencies, and groups that work with vulnerable populations, including elderly people, homeless people, and people with health risks.

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WINDHAM COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

Hi there, I'm **Vienna** and aren't I gorgeous! My family moved and couldn't take me with them so they brought me to WCHS to find a new home. I'm a confident lady who knows what she wants- usually some attention or being able to play up somewhere high! I can be a little sassy when displeased so it would be best if my owner had some previous cat experience. I would do best in a home where I can be the only pet so I can rule the roost. I would also need to go to a home without any children as I am not a fan.

Hello new friend, I'm **Patty**! My foster home says I'm very well behaved and loving. I'm affectionate without being demanding and love to nap and snuggle. I have lived with other cats so I could probably have a feline friend. I would prefer a home without any dogs or young children. Older respectful kiddos should be okay as long as they can respect a lady like me.

Hello new friends, I'm the beautiful **Catara**! I'm a sweet and lovey girl who was found on the streets in Florida when I was pregnant. Some nice people let me stay with them and raise my babies, then we traveled all the way to Vermont to find new homes. My fosters say I love catnip, belly rubs and being around my favorite humans. I'm a little timid with other cats but I could probably have a feline friend in my new home. Dogs and kids would be new so introductions should be gradual and everyone should be cat-savvy.

Hey there, I'm **Karma**! I was brought to WCHS because my owners could no longer care for me and wanted me to find a loving home. I'm affectionate, talkative and playful with the people I know but I do take some time to warm up to new folks. I've lived with other cats but was somewhat intense with them so I would be just fine as the only feline. Dogs and children would be brand new so introductions should be gradual and controlled.

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Organizations join to seek funds in support of asylum seekers

Six Vermont organizations, affiliated in a regional effort to support people seeking asylum in the United States, are partnering for a Giving Tuesday fundraiser on Tuesday, Dec. 1.

The organizations include the Community Asylum Seekers Project, Brattleboro; Bridge to Rutland, Rutland; Randolph Area Asylum Seekers Support, Randolph; Chittenden Asylum Seekers Assistance Network, Burlington; the Central Vermont Refugee Action Network and its Asylum Seeker Assistance Network, Montpelier; and Northeast Kingdom Asylum Seekers Assistance Network, St. Johnsbury.

"People who seek asylum in the United States have fled persecution and violence in their countries of birth, only to encounter the same in U.S. detention facilities," organizers wrote in a news release.

"Under policies of the federal administration, families have been separated, children have been kept in cages, and it has become more and more difficult for families and individuals to pursue their legal rights to asylum, forcing them into longer and longer waiting periods before being permitted to earn a living," they added.

Community organizations across the state say they "are working to empty ICE detention centers one family at a time" and maintain that "the arrival of these new Vermonters enriches our community life."

The coalition aims to raise $10,000 to directly help people seeking asylum relocate to Vermont and receive essential support as they move through the immigration courts.

The six groups are supporting approximately 20 asylum seekers, with more in the coming months. Groups follow COVID-19-approved safety protocols.

To learn more about the coalition's work and the fundraiser, visit **caspvt.org** or email Kate Paarlberg-Kvam, CASP's executive director, at **kate@caspvt.org**.

Vermont Judiciary delays criminal jury trials

Windham County trials were set to resume Dec. 7

BRATTLEBORO — Criminal jury trials, previously scheduled to resume in the Windham unit of the Vermont Superior Court in Brattleboro on Dec. 7, are now postponed indefinitely.

According to a news release, the delay is in response to a recent significant increase in COVID-19 cases in Vermont, which is expected to continue in the coming weeks.

Chief Superior Judge Brian Grearson and Vermont State Court Administrator Patricia Gabel made the decision to postpone the restart in consultation with Judge John Treadwell, who would have presided over the trials.

"We are disappointed to delay this critical component of our democracy — the right to a trial by a jury of one's peers," said Karen R. Carroll, Associate Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court and co-chair of a committee formed to restart jury trials safely during the pandemic.

"However, the safety and well-being of all is critical," she said.

The Supreme Court directed Grearson and Gabel to develop an implementation plan based on the recommendations informed by the Jury Restart Committee, which included judicial officers, a court manager, a state's attorney, a public defender, and a civil practitioner.

That work has been ongoing for months to be sure the courts can resume physical operations as safely and efficiently as possible.

The state recently engaged Erin Bromage Ph.D., an infectious disease specialist and professor at University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, to conduct an assessment and suggest best practices both for Vermont's physical court facilities and its planned procedures.

Bromage said the Windham County Courthouse was on track with modifications necessary for a safe restart.

"For important court proceedings, we can go forward with changes to our workflow and some changes to the infrastructure; most of those things can be done fairly simply," she said.

While the court has made many such changes and was poised to draw a jury for its first trial, recent COVID-19 case numbers caused judicial leaders to postpone until the courts can more confidently ensure the safety of jurors, trial participants, and court staff.

"It is critical that all of us work together to reduce our contact with others and slow the spread of the virus. We've done it before, and we can do it again. When this latest wave is behind us, the Judiciary will again look to restart in-person jury trials safely," Carroll said.

More information is available at **vermontjudiciary.org/COVID19**.

Grant funds library's climate information programs for Rockingham area

BELLOWS FALLS—The Rockingham Free Public Library (RFPL) recently received a $500 grant for climate-related programming from the American Library Association.

In a news release, the RFPL — one of only two Vermont libraries chosen for this honor — thanked library patron Kat Martin, former Interim Town Manager Chuck Wise, and Rockingham Help & Helpers "for their fantastic letters of support which were included in the grant application," and Rockingham residents Laurel Green and Peter Bergstrom, who "proved invaluable in planning for the use of these funds."

Beginning in January, funds will be used to engage the community in programs and conversations that address the climate change crisis.

Initial library programs will raise awareness of this region's vulnerability to flash floods and drought. A virtual screening of the documentary film *Flood Bound: The Uplifting Story of Pittsfield, Vt.* and the reading and discussion of Peggy Shinn's book *Deluge: Tropical Storm Irene, Vermont's Flash Floods and How One Small State Saved Itself* will bring the topic home.

The library is also working with the Vermont Folklife Center in hopes of recording Rockingham stories about 2011's Tropical Storm Irene and the catastrophic flooding in the state and region as a result of the massive rainfall.

Programs to help people prepare for and know what to do during an extreme weather emergency will be followed by presentations from state agencies, which will distribute emergency-preparedness literature.

The initiative will also explore the many ways of building resiliency into communities and will include programs such as procuring local food from CSAs, home gardening, and composting.

Rich Earth Institute of Brattleboro will also offer information on a more unconventional but just as valuable method of building resiliency: recycling urine into fertilizer.

Whenever anyone challenges anything, the powers that be try to paint them as extremists or radicals or whatever. And I think that's actually nonsense.
—BILL MCKIBBEN

GOT AN OPINION?

(Of course you do! You're from Windham County!)

Got something on your mind? Send contributions to our Letters from Readers section (500 words or fewer strongly recommended) to **voices@commonsnews.org**; the deadline is Friday to be considered for next week's paper. When space is an issue, we give priority to words that have not yet appeared elsewhere.

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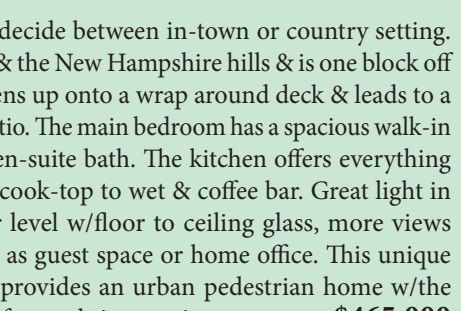

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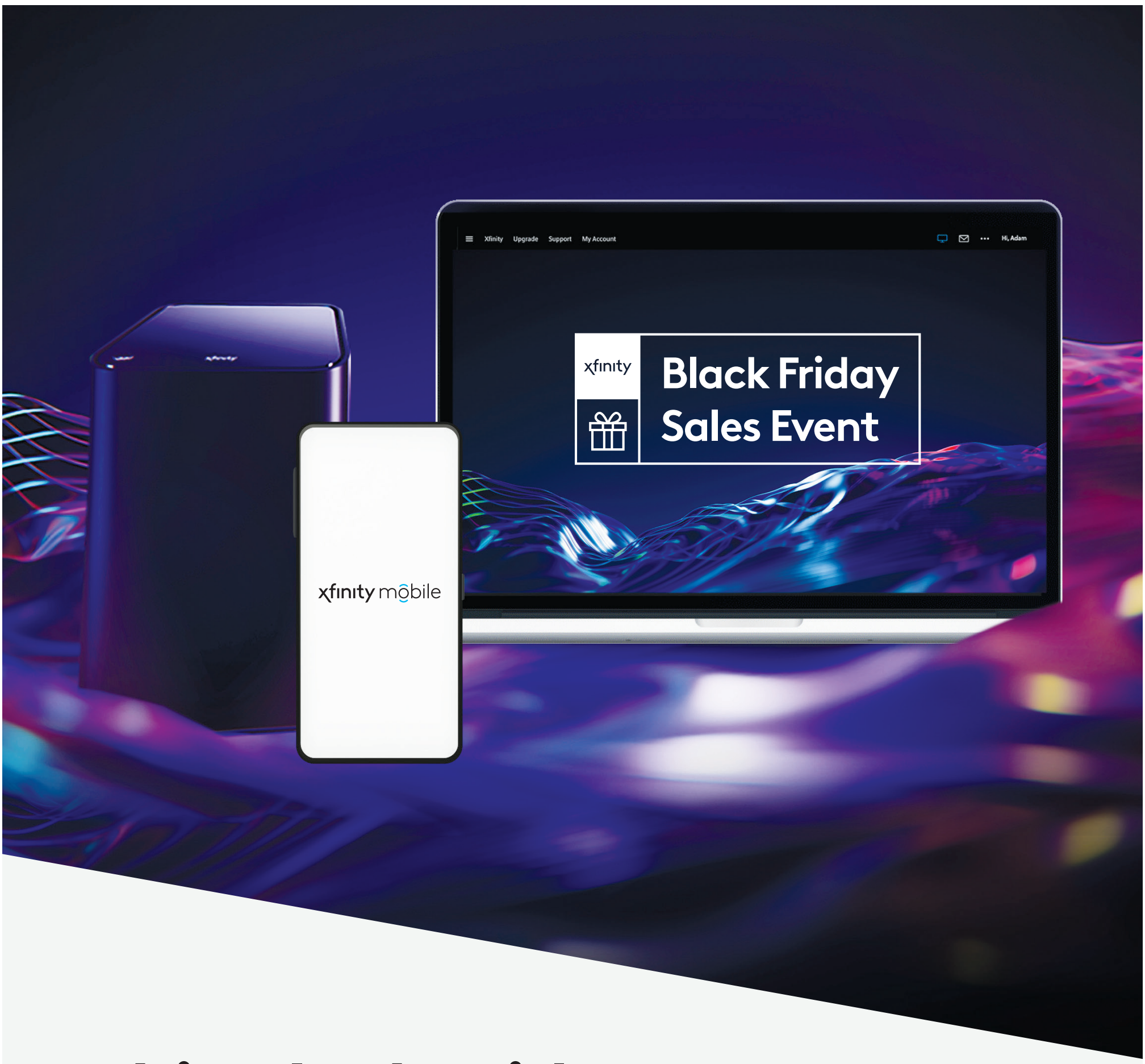

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The Commons

SECTIONS B & C

HOLIDAYS

Wednesday, November 25, 2020 page B1

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The Thanksgiving that we'll miss, the traditions that we'll keep

With travel restrictions in effect, readers reflect on the beloved holiday traditions that will be missing this Thanksgiving — and the traditions that are beyond the reach of even a global pandemic

Editor's note: As we customarily do for these special sections, we put out a call on Facebook to see what readers think about the topic at hand. And with so many states discouraging or restricting holiday travel in an attempt to stanch the spread of the coronavirus and its potentially deadly consequence — COVID-19 — we asked readers to reflect on a holiday season that promises to be different in the extreme.

SANDI RUDSKI CAPPONCELLI: My father-in-law's birthday is Nov. 22, and we always celebrate it on Thanksgiving when the family gets together. Every year his "birthday" cake is a pumpkin cheesecake that I make especially for him. I have been doing that for almost 40 years now. This will be the first year I won't be making one for him.

JUDY MCGEE: I'll miss having my son come up to be with us. He is in Connecticut. I will miss him, but I am thankful for being able to FaceTime with him.

PAULA BRAULT: Family around the table.

RORY METCALF: Friendsgiving.

LUKE SILLARS: Driving two hours to a "potluck" event with my extended family, where everybody just brings a small box of plain Triscuits to gain rightful entry, after which we all sit around a table eating them with thinly rationed brie, making small talk and pretending to like each other.

In simpler times, we all enjoyed such comforts, but this is 2020, and we can no longer safely bask in the excesses of yesteryear. Sigh.

LISA MCCORMICK: This morning, I went to the grocery store to buy the food: sweet potatoes for sweet potato pie. Stuffing. Cranberry. Green beans. And the smallest turkey they had (15 lbs.!) (for 2 people!).

We will Zoom with the family members who would have normally spent the holiday together. And we will have the real traditional home-cooked meal.

I decided that the food tradition was too important to not be honored — even for just the two of us at the real-life table.

HALEY ELISHA: We will be making tortellini, a tradition from the kids' *babcia* (whom none of them remember, but it feels important); potatoes and stuffing; cheesy broccoli (from the other side of the family); and a chicken. Because none of us love turkey, and since it's just us, we don't have to!

Though it's possible we will just make pie. In which case we will call it a purple crayon holiday.

DOT LENHART: I will miss having my daughter and grandchildren over for a delicious, lazy day together. Family is everything, and it hurts to be separated from them. I must note I see my daughter a lot, distanced; she is my greatest support these days.

AMELIA KINNEY: I will miss my dead relatives.

■ SEE **READERS RESPOND**, B4

COLUMN

DOROTHY GROVER-READ/THE COMMONS

A salad? A stuffing? This colorful Lemon, Farro, and Wild Rice Salad is tasty and vibrant, and it can easily sit as a side dish on your holiday table or stuff a squash for a vegetarian entrée.

A tighter, simpler holiday meal

This farro and wild rice salad is a perfect side dish that can easily slip into a baked squash to create a delicious vegetarian entrée

DOROTHY GROVER-READ

Memorable Meals

Bellows Falls

THIS WILL BE a holiday season to remember — not for its excesses, but for its smaller scope as many families limit their numbers.

The menu might be a little tighter, a little simpler; perhaps it will highlight favorite dishes or those that carry the most tradition in your home. Maybe you are all eating together online, or having a Zoom dessert you've all made in your respective homes.

While we might be used to having a turkey, all its trimmings, and multiple sides, if there are just a few at the table, other options might make more sense. A smaller roasted or stuffed turkey breast or thigh; the gravy, of course; and just a small selection of those things you like the best.

We'll have just one pie this year, and I'm keeping it simple — either an apple galette, or a Nantucket cranberry pie. Both are quick to put together but are packed with flavor. And if multiple families are making the same dessert, these are both quick and easy.

My mantra this year is ease. Since our gathering is for two, I'm not planning on making eight sides, but I will settle on just one or two besides the mashed potatoes — an absolute must — and always a salad.

If a dish can serve double duty, all the better. This farro and wild rice salad is a perfect side dish that can easily slip into a baked squash to create a delicious vegetarian entrée. It uses two grains for lots of texture, and it has a pronounced lemony flavor.

If you like, swap oranges for the lemons or use another grain, such as lentils or brown rice. You can also use a pear instead of an apple, or you can leave the fruit out altogether.

Triple duty? The leftovers are quite tasty rolled up in a tortilla!

Lemon, Farro, and Wild Rice Salad (or Stuffing)

Bring a large pot of water to a boil and add:

- **1 Tbsp. salt**
- **1 cup wild rice**

Bring back to a boil, cover, and reduce to a simmer. This will take about 45 minutes or so. While the rice cooks, bring a second pot of water to a boil and do the same with:

- **1 Tbsp. salt**
- **1 cup farro, whole or pearled**

Cook both of these grains like pasta. The timing will depend on what type you chose: the whole farro will take 30 minutes or so, while the pearled will take only 15. Just keep testing it until it is at the texture you want.

In both cases, the cooking time of these grains will depend on lots of things: the briskness of your simmer, the age of the grains, and even the subtle differences in varieties. So just go by your own instincts and what you want for texture.

Once the grains are cooked and drained, set aside to cool to room temperature.

In a large mixing bowl, whisk:

- **Juice and zest of 2 lemons**
- **1 Tbsp. maple syrup**
- **2 Tbsp. fruity olive oil**
- **1 Tbsp. grainy mustard**
- **2 garlic cloves, finely minced**

Once combined, add:

- **½ medium sweet onion, minced**
- **1 watermelon radish, chopped (save a slice to garnish)**
- **2 or 3 mini sweet peppers, chopped**
- **1 jalapeño pepper, finely minced (optional)**
- **2 Tbsp. dried cranberries**
- **1 cup chopped flat-leafed parsley**
- **2 Tbsp. pumpkin seeds or nuts**
- **1 small apple, diced, optional**

Add the grains to the bowl, and mix well. Add salt and pepper, and taste, correcting the seasoning to what you like. Do you need more acid? More sweetness?

For a salad: Simply plate atop some peppery arugula or lettuce, and garnish any way

■ SEE **HOLIDAY MEAL**, B3

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A perfect holiday meal, close to home

Agency of Agriculture, Vermont Fresh Network connect local farms and families for the holidays

MONTPELIER—This year's holiday will see people staying closer to home. Some might be prepping holiday dinners for the first time.

To take some of the pressure off, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture has collected tips for creating your local meal, no matter your situation.

• Looking to support local farms and producers? The Vermont Fresh Network's Local Holiday Meal Guide (**bit.ly/589_mealguide**) helps you find where to shop for local turkey and other ingredients for your holiday meal.

• You can also plan a trip to a holiday farmers' market and use the DiginVT map (**diginvt.com/places**) to search by category and location for other ingredients to complete your meal.

• What about the finishing touch? From sweet to savory condiments, no holiday table need be without Vermont specialty products for dessert.

• Maybe you're cooking for the first time? No sweat — everyone could use some inspiration! DiginVT offers a roundup of late autumn recipes from Vermont recipe writers. You might also try one of the holiday recipes shared by Vermont Fresh Network member caterers.

• You can find a recipe for maple-cranberry sweet potatoes and other great ideas to sweeten your dish with online recipes from the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association (**vermontmaple.org/recipes**) and follow along on Facebook (**facebook.com/vermont.maple**) as the trade organization shares other recipes throughout the season.

• Still nervous? Lean on Vermont's local chefs! Many restaurants, co-ops, or other retail stores not only share dozens of locally inspired recipes over the holiday season but also offer cooking classes and pre-ordering of perfectly prepared sides or even the main dish.

No matter how your holiday meal comes together this year, be sure to share your Rooted in Vermont experience on Instagram (**instagram.com/rootedinvermont**).

COURTESY PHOTO

Pottery, baking supplies, and cross-country skiing are just some up the items up for bid in the Strolling of the Heifers online auction.

Strolling of the Heifers auction raises funds to support programs

BRATTLEBORO—Just in time for holiday shopping, Strolling of the Heifers will host an online auction beginning Wednesday, Nov. 25, at 10 a.m.

Donors have provided art, craft, food, tickets, and more. Do you love the pottery of Laura Zindel? Need lift tickets, museum passes, or a theater at the Latchis all to yourself for a night? This auction will offer these items, plus lots of other great Vermont-made items, from wellness to cheese.

Bidding ends on Sunday, Dec. 6 at 11 p.m. at **32auctions.com/strollingoftheheifers**. You can sign up in advance for an account to watch or bid on items. If you're outbid, you'll get an email letting you know.

Proceeds from this fundraiser support Strolling of the Heifers, which has been connecting people with healthy local food, encouraging and facilitating innovation and entrepreneurship in the farm/food sector, and supporting the development of stronger local food systems since its inception in 2002.

The annual parade and festival normally brings thousands of people to Brattleboro to celebrate farms, farmers, and local food.

COVID-19 has put this event — the organization's main fundraiser — on hold for the time being.

"We are still at work on our year-round mission, and focusing on rebuilding and redirecting our programs to align with 'the new normal,'" event organizers said in a news release. "This fundraiser will help sustain us while we evaluate ways to continue our mission around local agriculture and food systems."

More information on the auction and the nonprofit can be found at **strollingoftheheifers.com/strolling-of-the-heifers-holiday-season-auction**.

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Holiday bazaars take it outside for open-air shopping

WEST BRATTLEBORO—The holiday bazaar has been a longstanding tradition in Vermont, but the COVID-19 pandemic has forced some changes to the tradition — most notably, moving the marketplaces into the great outdoors.

Dress warmly, wear your masks, and check out these bazaars:

• The First Congregational Church of West Brattleboro will hold its Christmas Bazaar on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Nov. 28, as it has for more than six decades.

This year, however, the bazaar will be held in front of the church at 880 Western Ave., from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

While the selection of gifts will not be as broad as usual, event organizers report availability of such traditional items as decorated wreaths, berry bowls, knitted and crocheted hats, mittens and gloves, bagged Christmas tree ornaments, and handcrafted goods. No food will be served.

• Also in West Brattleboro, All Souls Church, 29 South St., will hold its Holiday Bazaar outside as well as online on Saturday Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Church spokespeople say that market-goers will find handmade and decorated artisan wreaths displayed around the bazaar area in the parking lot.

An Edible Delights Table will feature traditional holiday baked goods as well as other edibles, such as jams, jellies, and baking mixes.

The church will also offer its gift emporium and many ornaments at **ascvt.org/special**.

Every gift which is given, even though is be small, is in reality great, if it is given with affection.

—Pindar

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Radish Top and Lonely Brazil Nut Pesto helps make use of vegetable tops and the less-often-consumed remnants of the mixed-nuts bowl.

DOROTHY GROVER-READ/THE COMMONS

Holiday meal

FROM SECTION FRONT

you like! You can add a bit more lemon zest at the end, then garnish with some flaked sea salt or more seeds or nuts.

To stuff a squash: Cut a delicata, acorn, or other small squash in half, lengthwise, and remove the seeds. Rub with olive oil, season with salt and pepper, and bake at 425 degrees for about 12 to 15 minutes, depending on the size of the squash.

Mound the filling in the squash and pop back in the oven, drizzling with a little more olive oil, and continue to cook for another 15 minutes or so, or until a knife inserted in the flesh comes out easily.

WE'RE ALL TRYING to be as frugal as we can with our food purchases during this time of COVID-19, avoiding unnecessary trips to the market and monitoring kitchen waste.

In that spirit, this next recipe makes use of Brazil nuts, which are often left behind from a bag of mixed nuts, and radish tops, which are usually tossed away.

Radish Top and Lonely Brazil Nut Pesto

In a food processor, combine:

- **2 to 3 radishes, plus the tops from additional ones**
- **3 cloves garlic**
- **⅓ cup Brazil nuts, chopped**
- **½ cup extra virgin olive oil**
- **zest and juice of 1 lemon**
- **a few basil leaves (if you have them)**
- **1 pinch of crushed red pepper flakes**

Pulse until you arrive at the desired texture, then season with salt and pepper.

Gold out of straw.

*Dorothy Grover-Read's culinary talents can be found on her blog, "The New Vintage Kitchen" (**vintagekitchen.org**), billed as "[a] Vermont innkeeper's collection of classics reimagined for today's kitchen." Her column has regularly appeared in* The Commons' *Food & Drink section, currently on hiatus during the pandemic.*

DOROTHY GROVER-READ/THE COMMONS

Nantucket Cranberry Pie is at home on any holiday dessert buffet, but comes together quickly using just one bowl and one pan — and no rolling of dough is necessary!

And for dessert: Nantucket Cranberry Pie

This recipe uses only one bowl and one pan, and it requires no rolling of dough

Bellows Falls

WE LOVE OUR cranberries in New England. Their pop of tartness and vibrant red color move from sweet to savory with ease. What would the holiday table be without cranberry sauce or relish?

I've recipes for cranberry muffins and breads; vegetables roasted with cranberries; cranberries in sautés, in rice, and in meat dishes; cranberry parfaits and puddings; show-off tarts; cookies, crisps, cheesecakes, and other desserts; and any number of special beverages.

One traditional favorite is Nantucket Pie, or Nantucket Cranberry Pie — which, in keeping with other New England desserts, is really more of a cake, like Boston Cream Pie!

The ingredients are simple: a layer of cranberries and sugar, and a batter of flour, butter, eggs, sugar, and often almond extract. Sometimes it is made as an upside-down cake, but since I wanted to keep this simple, I just serve it up as a pie. It uses only one bowl and one pan, and it requires no rolling of dough.

The recipe from my mother-in-law used almond extract, but I prefer vanilla extract. I think the almond extract makes it taste too much like cherry pie.

I've also added a couple of touches of my own: the chopped-up crystalized ginger and the lemon zest.

I can't help it — I just can't leave good enough alone.

Nantucket Cranberry Pie

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter a deep-dish pie plate or round cake tin.

Gather:

- **4 cups cranberries (1 bag)**

Chop them in half, roughly, and place them into the buttered baking dish.

Heat a small skillet over medium high and add:

- **½ cup walnuts or pecans**

Toast until fragrant and just starting to brown — keep an eye on them. Remove them from the pan and add to the cranberries, along with:

- **½ cup crystalized ginger, chopped**
- **Zest of one lemon**
- **½ cup sugar**

Mix these in the pan and set side.

In a mixing bowl, beat:

- **1½ sticks butter, softened**
- **1 cup sugar**

Beat until soft and fluffy. Then, one at a time, add:

- **2 large eggs**

Once well combined, gently mix in:

- **1 cup all-purpose flour**
- **½ tsp. salt**

With your mixing spoon, add the batter in blobs on top of the fruit and gently spread it out. You might need to moisten your fingers! Sprinkle with some coarse sugar if you want a crunchy top.

Bake for 30 minutes, turn the cake around, and continue baking until it is brown and firm on top, about 15 minutes more.

Let cool, then serve as is or with some vanilla ice cream. It is, after all, a feast day!

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Readers respond

FROM SECTION FRONT

SHAW ISRAEL IZIKSON: I'm going to miss having friends over, but I purchased a turkey gravy cover for my iPad so they can Zoom in while eating dinner.

Also: I miss having an alma mater — a pity certain people out there didn't do anything about it to try to save it.

MOLLY STONER: I'll miss gathering with 20-ish dear friends. It's always such a nice, eclectic mix of people with a most excellent potluck!

TAMMY MCNAMARA: Family. I am really going to miss my mom and dad.

ROBIN RIESKE: We are Zooming with the family. We are doing a go-around about a recipe or tradition we love and who we got it from. No getting together — next year will be awesome in person!

PETER SIMONEAUX: Don't get me started.

BRENDA SIEGEL: I am missing family.

KAREN SHAPIRO: I am missing seeing my parents.

NERINGA MARIJA PERMINAS ATKINSON: Actually, this will be the first time that I will have Thanksgiving off in six years. But the biggest irony is that I will still be spending it alone, as my daughter and her boyfriend won't be able to make it down from Austin. But that's OK. I'm still planning on cooking up a storm, and I'm looking forward to trying a Southwestern-style turkey and fixings.

AMANDA MATT: I'm going to miss my parents so much, especially my mom. I'm also going to miss my extended family as well — I actually like them, but I'd given up on seeing them a long time ago. Losing the chance to see my parents was recent and heartbreaking.

For the more positive version of what I'll still have: we're still going to have the traditional holiday foods. I actually like cooking and baking, so that makes me happy. That's about it.

GEMMA SEYMOUR: It's been a very long time since my family made the effort to love each other and be with each other. When I was a child, we would all gather at my grandparents' home, sometimes nearly 30 of us. I watched my extended family disintegrate over the years, and when my grandmother passed away at 94 in 2018, I knew that funerals would likely be the only times when we would make any effort at all to be civil to one another.

JEFF POTTER/COMMONS FILE PHOTO

My stepfather passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in February, and his funeral in early March happened just before everything shut down.

I last hosted a Thanksgiving dinner in 2015, here in Brattleboro, with and for friends, and it was lovely, but every year since then, I've been alone. Although I would prefer not to be alone, the truth is that have a wonderful time cooking and eating my Thanksgiving for One.

This year, of course, gatherings are out of the question, but I do look forward to the day when I can once again fill my home with friends and fill them will delicious food and warmth and love.

LISSA WEINMANN: We are fasting!

JANIE CROSSMON: My daughters always come home for Thanksgiving, and we always do for a horseback ride and pick out a Christmas tree in the Farm woods. I will miss the laughter this year.

JOHN VANDYKE WILMERDING:

My entire family
those living, and past
(passed)
I rejoice in thanks
with those who are with me
on the other side of Earth
and on the "flip side" of Life
(I'll also miss pumpkin pie
with whipped cream.)

MICHELLE BOS-LUN: We are having a tiny Thanksgiving meal: just our household with my husband, daughter, and granddaughter. We will cook all the usual menu items: just smaller portions. We arranged to get half of a small turkey from a local farmer, which will still be too much for three meat eaters, but we love leftovers. I'm disappointed to not be able to invite friends and family this year but hopeful that next year we can resume with a larger celebration meal.

IAN DIAMONDSTONE: Nothing will change. Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. It's about family, friends, food, and sharing! Nothing will change. Still my all-time-favorite holiday, with best family memories, so many stories, so much love and sharing! Nothing will change for me on Thanksgiving.

KAREN COLBY: I'll miss having my kids home and spending the day with us. it breaks my heart we won't be able to because of the restrictions.

DOROTHY GROVER READ: We're going to Zoom with our kids and grandkids, but I will certainly miss having them all around the table, along with my sister, nieces, and nephews, and my son-in-law's family as well.

But it's just a day in the grand scheme of things, and keeping everyone safe is far more important than one meal.

Bringing a deadly disease to people with little to no immunity is a very authentic Thanksgiving reenactment.

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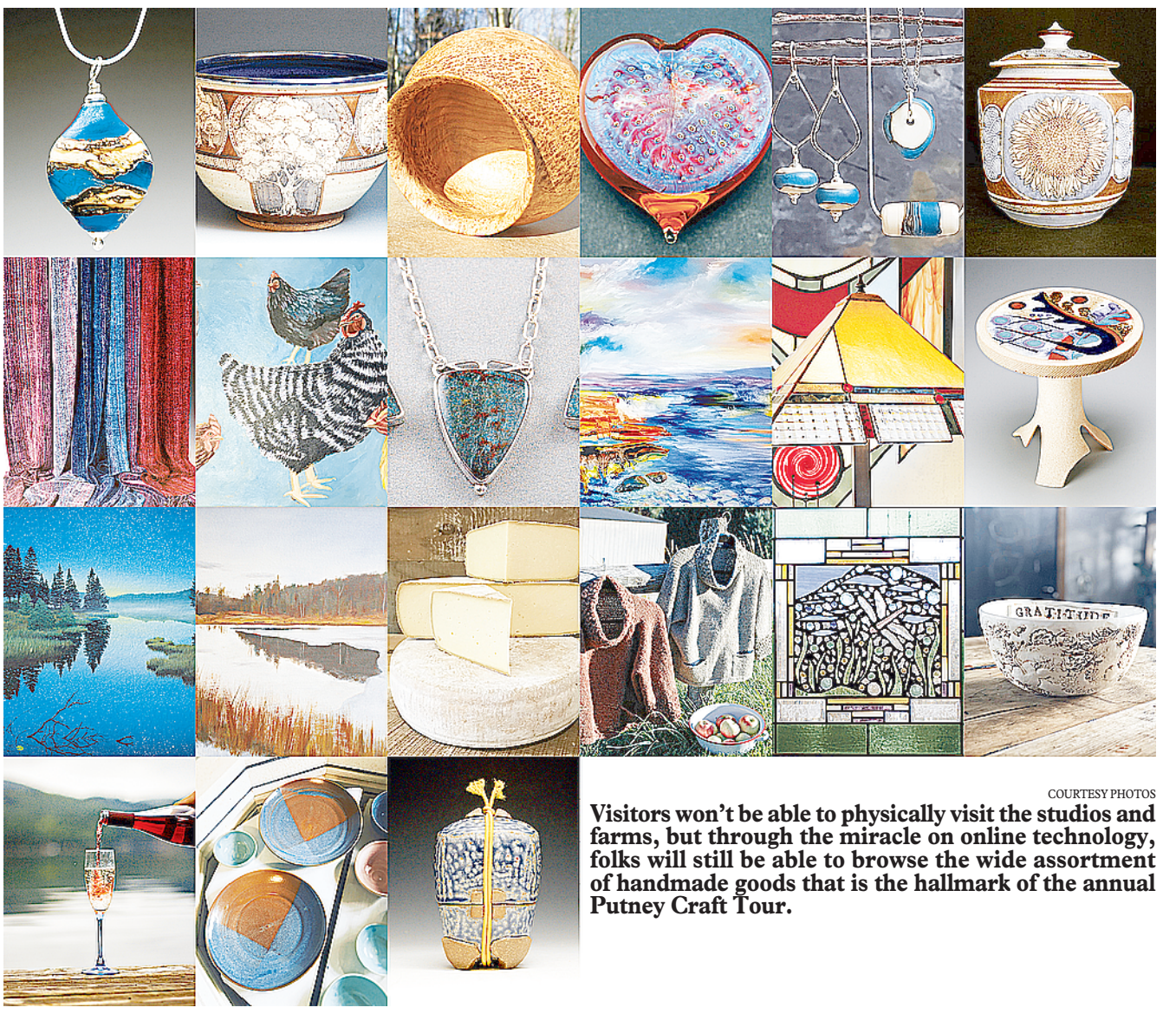
Putney Craft Tour goes virtual

Oldest craft tour in the country regroups for online tours, videos, and commerce in the age of COVID-19 — and, in some cases, bringing artists up to the bleeding edge of technology



COURTESY PHOTOS

Visitors won't be able to physically visit the studios and farms, but through the miracle on online technology, folks will still be able to browse the wide assortment of handmade goods that is the hallmark of the annual Putney Craft Tour.

PUTNEY — Every Thanksgiving weekend for the past 41 years, Vermont's most iconic open-studio tour, the Putney Craft Tour, draws thousands to the studios to meet the artisans to experience where art begins and purchase one of a kind works.

Despite the ongoing concern of spreading COVID-19, artisans on the tour — the oldest of its kind in the country, now in its 42nd year — felt it important to share their work, which brings so much joy and meaning especially during the holidays.

In lieu of cancelling the tour altogether, the event has become virtual and will come straight to art lovers on Nov. 27, 28, and 29, offering "tour-goers" the opportunity to shop and browse the Putney Craft Tour Collection from the comfort of their own homes.

The online tour will feature 19 artisans, including glassblowers, potters, jewelers, weavers, painters, and woodworkers, as well as artisan cheesemakers and winemakers.

The tour kicks off on Friday, Nov. 27, at 10 a.m. sharp and continues throughout the weekend until Sunday at 5 p.m. The tour's website (**putneycrafts.com**) will be open for browsing in advance, but the artisan's online stores will not be open until that morning.

The tour will not only offer browsing and purchasing of the works of some of the state's finest artists and craftspeople, but it will help create an up-close-and-personal experience of the sort that the tour is known for.

Several of the artists will be available by appointment to share their lives and how they work via a Zoom call. And, since you can't be there in person, the tour has produced short videos of each the artists.

Many of the Putney Craft Tour artisans are offering specials and other promotions during the tour. The tour itself is offering a prize of $100 to one winner.

Tourgoers can sign up at **putneycrafts.com** for a chance to win. The winning ticket will be pulled on Sunday afternoon after the tour ends.

Helping their neighbors

Traditionally, the Putney Craft Tour brings important business not only to the artisans but also to other local merchants.

Putney's businesses, like many small enterprises across the country, are struggling. For years, the Craft Tour has donated a percentage of profits to the Putney Foodshelf and will continue that tradition this year.

Each year, the tour also partners with Sandglass Theater and Next Stage Arts, which will also be celebrating the rich tradition of Putney as one of Vermont's most creative communities, as it does annually.

Sandglass Theater artists Shoshana Bass and Jana Zeller will conduct an hour of puppet making for the whole family. During this free, online workshop, they will create a small shadow box and animate two-dimensional puppets on a screen.

To participate, visit **sandglasstheater.org** for materials you will find around the house. The workshop will be available from Friday at 10 a.m. through Sunday at 5 p.m. during the tour.

Adjusting to a new format

For the older artisans, going virtual is a whole new ball game, on top of their adapting to using social media to market themselves. Some have had to upgrade their internet service so they can accept Zoom calls throughout the weekend.

"This year has been a huge learning curve," Jeanne Bennett, jeweler and longtime tour member, said in a news release.

"I created and launched a website for my jewelry business for the first time ever," she continued. "It has been difficult to manage the technical aspect of the website and the creative nature of jewelry making."

The pandemic has also forced Bennett's daughters to move back home for a short period of time, and they have been a "huge help," Bennett said.

"If it weren't for them, I would not be able to be on the tour this year," she said.

Ken Pick, one of founders of the tour, said that "it's been challenging to prepare for the virtual tour for a technically semi-literate person as myself."

Friends and family have come to his rescue, upgrading his studio's wireless internet capacity.

"I no longer have to go outside to find enough of a signal to take a credit card," Pick said. "And now I can Zoom from the comfort of my studio."

"These are challenges unsought after but, nonetheless, have arrived at my potter's wheel as I try not to spin out of control," the artist said.

Dena Moses said she participated in the Sunapee Craft Fair virtual tour, where she gained some experience in that realm.

The Putney weaver says she totally revamped her website and changed the design and focus to online sales. She has also started to create short videos and use social media.

She says that the COVID-19 pandemic has helped her business, because "more and more people want to learn to weave."

With that in mind, Moses is working on a whole new business and website to sell looms and other weaving products, along with educational material.

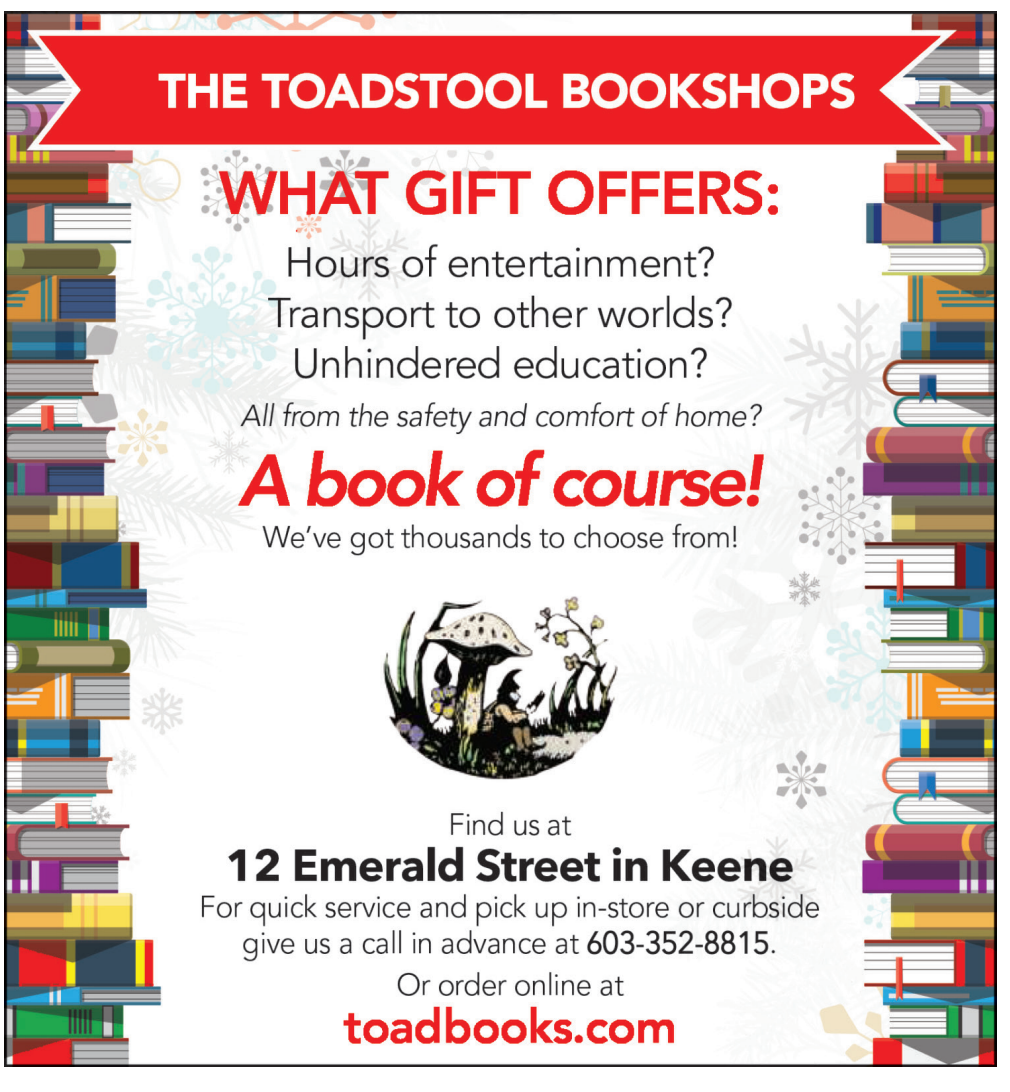
Meanwhile, the younger set has been planning live Facebook feeds and more.

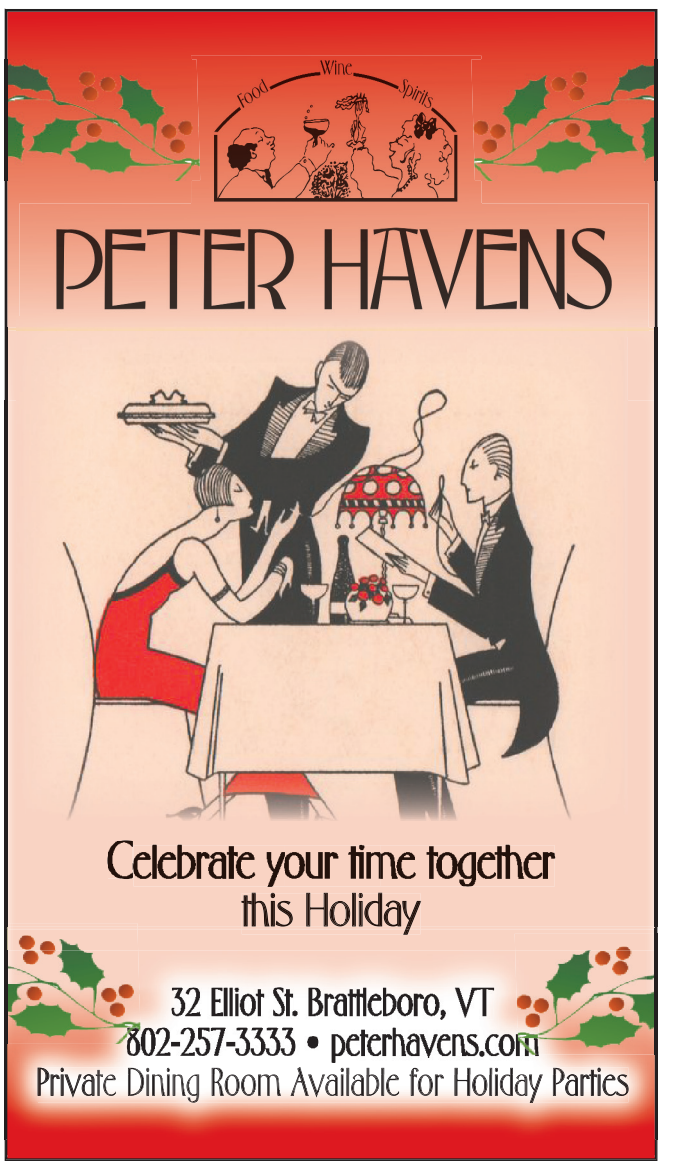
For example, potter Ryan Burch created 19 one-minute videos of each artist on the tour, now available to stream on YouTube (**bit.ly/589_putneycraft**) and playing on BCTV.

"I lost studio access entirely for six months after the initial outbreak in March," Burch said. "I was lucky to have enough pots in stock to still be able to sell work during that time, but for over a half a year, there was absolutely no making going on, which was an immense change of pace."

"I redirected my ever-present creative energy into dreaming up a documentary film project, and once my studio opened back up, I did my best to hit the ground running," he added. "Being able to make pots again feels like a breath of fresh air, and I feel so fortunate to once again have access to my beloved studio space."

"But I still miss hugging my friends!" Burch said.





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COLUMN

When we can't have our normal holidays, we need them more than ever

The global pandemic in 1918 and a war raging overseas tested our region's people and their resolve. Can the headlines of the era help us make sense of 2020?

JEFF POTTER
Editor's Notebook
Brattleboro

FOR TOO MANY PEOPLE, holidays are already fraught with complexity and difficulties. A global health catastrophe is the last thing they need to add to the mix.

For so many of us, the recent words of urgency from Gov. Phil Scott have created a gargantuan conflict.

We want to see family for the holidays. We need to see them. Our hearts ache for grandkids we haven't hugged. We sense the time passing for older relatives who aren't well.

Many of us desperately want — crave — connection from our families of origin and our families of choice.

Who wouldn't?

And as tough as it is, we have to be strong, the governor said.

"In the environment we're in, we've got to prioritize 'need' over 'want,'" he noted in a press conference Nov. 17, when he announced tightening of the emergency measures that had been loosening gradually.

Vermont and adjoining regions of New Hampshire and Massachusetts have been spared from the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic so far, but one look at the recent surge in coronavirus infections gives cause for concern. Take a virus that's more prevalent than ever, cram big families indoors for extended periods of time, and add holiday travel.

With so many asymptomatic people unwittingly spreading the virus, public health officials are predicting a perfect storm of grave illness and, yes, death blithely spread by the simple human contact we are craving.

"And I understand how hard it is to be asked to keep making sacrifices," said the governor. "As I said last week, I haven't seen my mom or my daughter in nearly a year."

Scott attributed what he described as "record growth" to "adults continu[ing] to get together with other adults — multiple households, inside and outside — in situations, usually involving alcohol, where they stop taking precautions. And then they're going to work, sending their kids to school, visiting another neighbor who works in a nursing home and spreading the virus at each stop."

"I don't believe anyone is doing this on purpose," he said. "But it is what's happening."

PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOLARS have pointed out a paradox: if we're handling this emergency correctly and these precautions are effective, they will actually feel like an overreaction when they suppress spread of the virus. Unsurprisingly, reaction to the Scott administration's new travel restrictions has ranged from disappointed to grudgingly understanding to outright defiance.

"This shit is ridiculous! I'll take my chances with a 99.8% survival rate," one Facebook friend posted. "Pass the goddamned cranberry sauce."

I really hope he and his family and friends will be OK. Even though I couldn't disagree with my friend more strongly, I really do understand the frustration and why people are resolute in wanting to flout the new rules.

As we go through the changes that life brings us, we hold to our holidays and the traditions we create for them and from them. For many of us, these holidays become our beacons in the dark, something to look forward to, something to anchor us to the rhythms of our lives, even when those lives are changing.

If this year were normal, my own family would right now be gearing up to gather for the big feast. And we would be bracing ourselves to miss my uncle, who died in February.

At the same time, everything else about the holiday would still be there, providing continuity and comfort on an elemental human level, even with empty seats at the table.

It's why we need holidays and human connection, tradition and ritual, on a deep cellular level.

More than ever, we crave the very activities that can kill or sicken us or the people we love.

`READING THE GOVERNOR'S words last week, I got curious, wondering about a similar time in our country's history when holidays collided with geopolitical turmoil and when the people in our area needed strength and resolve in the midst of a public health emergency.

"Fighting Fourth" Liberty Loan Begins September 28th — Get Ready, Save to Buy Buy Early.

The Brattleboro Daily Reformer

VOL. 6. NO. 184. BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT, FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 4, 1918. TWO CENTS

BRITISH FIGHTING IN OPEN COUNTRY EAST OF ST. QUENTIN HAVING PUSHED AHEAD FIVE MILES SINCE LAST MONDAY

German Flanks From Lens Northward and From Rheims Eastward Bending Back Under Heavy Attacks by French, British, Belgians and Americans—1,000 Prisoners Taken Tuesday

FIVE-MILE BREACH IN GERMAN DEFENSES SOUTH OF BEAUVOIR

Opening in Line May Enable Marshal Foch to Throw Troops to Rear of Cambrai and Laon—Advance in Flanders Continues to Menace German Coast Positions and Railroad Lines

(The Associated Press.)

Northeast of St. Quentin the British today are reported fighting in the open country beyond the Hindenburg line, having pushed ahead five miles since Monday. From Lens northward and from Rheims eastward to the Argonne the allies continue to bend back the German flanks in smashing attacks. The breach in the German defenses south of Beauvoir is in a front of five miles.

To the north the British are pressing forward, east and southeast, while on the south the French are attacking successfully. The German resistance is bitter, but there has been no let up in the strong allied pressure.

In the fighting in this area Tuesday Field Marshal Haig captured 4,000 prisoners.

Through an opening in the line Marshal Foch would be able to throw troops to take Cambrai and Laon in the rear.

West of Lille the British continue to press the Germans eastward while extending their line south of Lens.

NEW ENGLAND LOAN TOTAL IS $22,793,000

Reports to Federal Reserve Bank Show Fair Increase from This Section of Country.

U. S. TROOPS ABROAD NUMBER 1,800,000

Future Transport Likely to Be Hampered by Influenza Epidemic in Army Camps.

MAXIMILIAN CHANCELLOR

Official Despatch from Berlin Confirms Report of Appointment.

MAY LOSE THEIR COAL.

New Yorkers Who Have it Stored May Have to Give it Up This Winter.

G. G. JONES DIES IN BURLINGTON

Brattleboro Man Was Instructor in Special Government Mechanical Training at State University.

BODY OF EDWARD B. MORAN ARRIVES

Met at Railroad Station by High School Association and Business Men—Services Sunday at 2.

BEDDING FOUND IN OPEN PASTURE

Discovered on B. S. McDonald Place After Soldier Left

TALE OF ROBBERY IS NOT BELIEVED

Six Played Quoits, Two Blankets, Wool Lined Rubber Robe and One Pillow Are Held at McDonald House for Identification.

WILLIAM B. VINTON FUNERAL SERVICE

Knights Templar Committal Ceremony in Prospect Hill Cemetery—Commandery Members Bearers.

GAME AT BELLOWS FALLS POSTPONED

Epidemic Makes Change in Schedule Necessary—High School Trying to Arrange with Greenfield.

SEVENTEEN NEW INFLUENZA CASES

Two Die in Emergency Hospital and One at Melrose

CLOSING ORDER IS CONTINUED A WEEK

Good Response to Call for Cot Beds and Mattresses Made in Reformer Yesterday—Total Number of Cases Under Quarantine About 125.

NEWSPAPERS.COM

The *Reformer* of Oct. 1, 1918 featured news of the War to End All Wars and the emerging Spanish influenza, which would soon temporarily suspend public gatherings and school in Brattleboro.

The *Brattleboro Reformer* in the fall of 1918 was largely consumed with two major themes: the waning days of what we now know as World War I, and the growing scourge of the "Spanish influenza."

As the saying goes, history doesn't repeat itself, but is it ever rhyming here.

Readers first saw mention of the virus in the *Reformer* on April 25, 1918, with a wire story about an epidemic sweeping the military. Small news items dotted the pages of the newspaper throughout the spring, summer, and early fall.

"Spanish influenza has not yet appeared in Vermont, but there is every probability that it will," cautioned the *Reformer*'s editor on Sept. 20. The newspaper's town news columns — which read like an early 20th century version of a Facebook news feed — began taking note of people who were ill. And appearing on the front page of Sept. 30, 1918: the headline "BOARD OF HEALTH STOPS MEETINGS: Closes Schools, Theaters and Churches—No Public Gatherings."

The newspaper reported "50 or more cases" of the flu in town. It editorialized that the decision to ban public events was "based on the absolutely sound principle that it is better to be safe than sorry. A serious epidemic would find Brattleboro in the same plight that hundreds of other towns and cities are in; namely, without trained nurses or doctors enough to cope with the situation."

By Oct. 12, Brattleboro reported seven deaths out of 212 cases in a story that also included instructions for making face masks of fine gauze.

"The more one learns about the way the influenza situation has been handled in other places, the more evident it becomes that Brattleboro's comparatively light visitation thus far is due less to chance than to prompt and efficient organization," the paper editorialized.

"With the situation so well in hand, it would be the height of folly to think of opening up until this town and surrounding towns show positive evidence that the disease has been stamped out."

AGAINST THIS BACKDROP of a virulent and terrifying pandemic, the "Great War" was raging and finally ended with the Nov. 11 armistice signed with Germany. Each day brought banner headlines of a lurch toward peace.

But as fall turned to winter and the holidays approached, a number of the 188 soldiers and 16 sailors from town were still in the trenches, with a weeks-long lag in delivery of letters confirming if they would ever come home. Parents, siblings, friends, and relatives — some undoubtedly ill or dying themselves and all living with the looming threat of the flu — still had no idea whether their loved ones overseas were alive or dead.

The *Reformer*'s daily feature, "From the Boys in Service," published haunting letters from enlisted men to their families.

"Mrs. G. C. Messer received two letters and a postcard from her son, Private George L. Messer of Company D, 102d machine gun battalion," read the introduction to the column in the Dec. 21 issue. "She had not heard from him since before the armistice was signed, so the receipt of these letters, written Nov. 26 and Nov. 27, lifted a great deal of anxiety, as numerous casualties had been noted in the 102d machine gun battalion."

Messer reassured his mother that he was OK. "I have not been able to write you for a long time and I suppose you must be worried, but everything is over now, and I am all right," he wrote.

And in another letter published in that same column, Private Clarence E. Shaw wrote to his parents from France.

"Today is Thanksgiving, and we are having chicken and believe me, I woud [sic] rather be sitting at the table at home, but we are lucky to have it, so why should we kick?" Shaw wrote.

Also from France, Sergeant Carl Voetsch celebrated Thanksgiving with "a little better than the usual feed for dinner."

"We managed to get filled up anyway, and, as one fellow said, what difference does it make what you eat if you get filled up?" Voetsch wrote to his father, local baker Charles Voetsch. "Next year at this time, we'll make up for it."

Capt. Hugh J. Betterley looked forward to Christmas in his note from Nov. 27.

"I shall think of you all Christmas and wish I might have gotten back in time for it," he wrote in a letter from Luxembourg to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James M. Betterley.

I FIND THOSE old newspapers haunting.

For one thing, the tone is so stoic and matter-of-fact about the sheer terror and uncertainty that a community must have been feeling about the fate of hundreds of young men from a small county in rural southern Vermont were in the trenches in "the war to end all wars." The wait for postcards and letters must have been agonizing.

And all the while, Vermonters were ill and dying — in many cases, young people — in a world that was already no stranger to death.

I'm not going to sit here and tell anyone not to be frustrated and burned out about our present-day need for social distancing, or not to be sad or conflicted by the prospect of a lonely Thanksgiving — and maybe even other disrupted holidays this season.

I will say that these snapshots from 1918 paint a picture of similarly wrenching uncertainty, difficulty, and danger, complete with an invisible contagion turning day-to-day life upside down. And these stories offer some perspective that we are not alone. Our ancestors went through similar ordeals, similar sadness.

They were strong. They had to be — they had no choice.

Eventually, their holiday traditions returned. Empty seats at the table were saved, mourned, filled. Life moved on. Our lives will move on, too.

These gloomy, short days will mark the end of an extraordinarily difficult year. Better days are ahead. We can be strong, too. Please be safe this holiday season.

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AROUND THE TOWNS

Thanksgiving closings in Brattleboro

BRATTLEBORO — In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, all town offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26 and 27, with the exception of emergency services.

Brooks Memorial Library does not allow in-person visits at this time, but curbside and online services are available. The library will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 25 and will reopen for curbside pick-up on Nov. 26 and 27 from 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Parking is free at all metered spaces and in the pay-and-display lots on Nov. 26 and 27. Regular enforcement hours will resume on Saturday, Nov. 28. All other violations will be enforced.

Trash, recyclables, and compost will not be picked up on Nov. 26. All usual Thursday collections will be picked up on Nov. 27.

Any questions about in-town bus service should be directed to Southeast Vermont Transit (The MOO-ver) at 802-460-7433.

Christian Science Church invites community to online Thanksgiving service

BRATTLEBORO — The local congregation of First Church of Christ, Scientist invites community members to join in a virtual Thanksgiving Day service at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 26.

The service will include Vermont Gov. Phil Scott's Thanksgiving proclamation; readings from the Bible and the Christian Science textbook, *Science and HealthWith Key to the Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy; music appropriate for the occasion; and an opportunity for attendees to share words of gratitude.

Although the physical building at 57 Putney Rd. is closed due to the state's response to the pandemic, Sunday services are held at 10:30 a.m., and a Wednesday evening testimony meeting is held at 7:30 p.m. weekly, both on Zoom.

See the church's website, **csbrattleboro.org**, for a link to the service.

Winter Farmers Market suspends in-person shopping

BRATTLEBORO — The Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market, held every Saturday at the C.F. Church Building, 80 Flat St., will no longer be open for in-person shopping as of Saturday, Nov. 26, due to the increased risks associated with COVID-19.

The market will, however, continue with a curbside pick-up model at least through the holidays. Masks are required, and COVID-19 social distancing directives will be observed during pickup.

At the start of the New Year, organizers will assess the possibility of re-opening the market with a "shop and go" model.

The order cycle opens each week at 8 a.m. on the Tuesday before a market and closes at 8 p.m. on Thursdays "so vendors can pick, pack, bake, and make what you are looking for," writes Market Manager Sherry Maher in a news release. Orders will be ready for pick up between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. There will be a $1 fee added for processing debit or credit cards.

For the most up-to-date information on current market practices or other information, visit **brattleborowinterfarmersmarket.org**.

RFPL suspends in-person visits

BELLOWS FALLS — The Rockingham Free Public Library is suspending in-person visits until further notice.

With the announcement of renewed restrictions and the sharp increase in COVID-19 cases in Vermont, the RFPL has returned to providing curbside service only.

This measure will allow patrons to access most library services safely and help keep the community and staff as safe as possible and will contribute to slowing the curve of rising cases, library staff write in a news release.

Library cardholders can continue to place holds on materials through their online library accounts, or they can call and talk to one of the librarians, who can help select books, movies, audios, and magazines or help with access to many library digital services and online databases.

Virtual programs will continue, and the book drop box is open for returns.

Curbside hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5:45 p.m., and Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

For more information, visit **rockinghamlibrary.org**, call 802-463-4270, or email **reference@rockinghamlibrary.org**.

Windham County Genealogy Interest Group plans virtual meeting

BRATTLEBORO — The next meeting of the Windham County Genealogical Interest Group (WCGIG) will be held via Zoom on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m to noon. The topics for the meeting include publishing a family genealogy online using The Next Generation (TNG) (**tngsitebuilding.com**) and researching ancestors using Find (**findagrave.com**)a (**findagrave.com**) Grave (**findagrave.com**).

Those who do a lot of genealogy research on their family eventually reach a point when they wonder, "What am I going to do with all this stuff?" One way to share family history and collaborate with like-minded cousins is to create a website. New tools simplify building a genealogy website and give the creator total control over what it includes.

The Next Generation (TNG) of genealogy-site building is one such tool. WCGIG member Bill Clark will introduce the features in this software. He has used TNG to create his own site, the Clark-Hart (**clark-hart.us**)P (**clark-hart.us**)ages, which includes multiple ways to search and display the genealogy.

Cemeteries often provide helpful information about ancestors, and one of the largest online collections is the website Find a Grave. Wayne Blanchard will lead a tour of the site and show different ways to search the site, whose online community has added more than 190 million memorials since 1995.

Anyone can join for free and add memorials. Some people "adopt" a cemetery and add all the gravestones in a location to the site, while others add photos and information only about their own family.

The free program will be limited to the first 30 people to register, which one can do at **bit.ly/windhamgen4**.

Part of the session will be devoted to sharing genealogical research questions and planning topics for the next meeting.

For more information, contact **windhamcountygig@gmail.com**.

Dummerston 2021 calendars now available

DUMMERSTON — The 2021 Scenes of Dummerston calendars are now available. Proceeds from sales, still $10, benefit the Historical Society.

The historical society also sells $20 black T-shirts (sizes S-XL), with the West Dummerston Covered Bridge depicted on the front.

You may purchase items at the Town Office, or by contacting Muriel Taylor (802-257-9358); Gail Sorenson (802-254-9311), or Jody Normandeau (802-254-9037).

Moore Library hosts writing circle

NEWFANE — Deborah Lee Luskin will offer a free writing circle on Sunday, Dec. 13, from 1 to 4 p.m. via Zoom, to benefit the Moore Free Library. Writers of all kinds and all levels of experience are invited to step away from the holiday frenzy for an afternoon of supported writing.

"As the light fades and the world tilts away from the sun, we will write to illuminate our inner light, honor our inner voice, and tell whatever stories rise to be told," Luskin wrote in a news release. "Prompts and guidance for automatic writing will be provided. We will collectively create a safe space for those who wish to read their new words."

Advanced registration is required to receive the Zoom link. Enrollment is limited to 20 people. Register at **deborahleeluskin.com/contact**. The writing circle is free; donations to Moore Free Library are gratefully accepted via **moorefreelibrary.org** or by mail at 23 West St., Newfane, VT 05345.

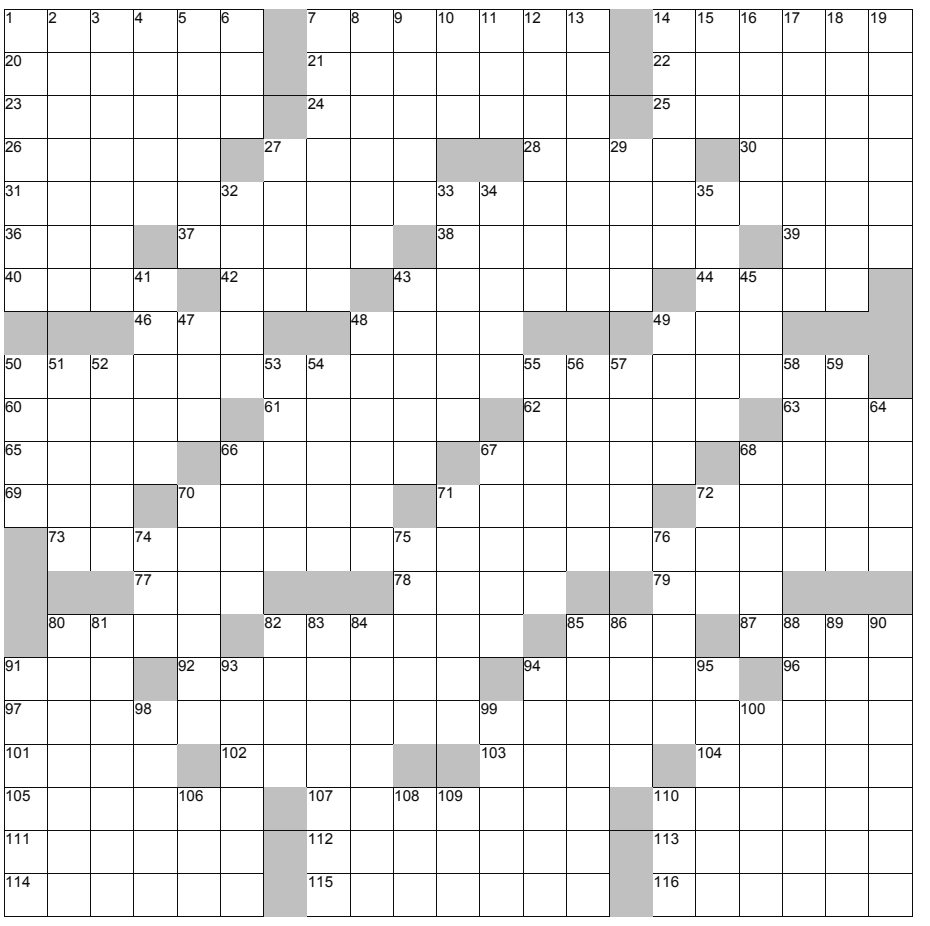
Moore Free Library has two tablets and two laptops available for workshop participants to borrow on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact the library directly to arrange in advance to pick up equipment on Saturday, Dec. 12 before 2 p.m., and plan to return equipment on Tuesday, Dec. 15 by 1:30 p.m. The library also has high speed Internet.

The building is not open on Sundays.

EMILY COX AND HENRY RATHVON

THE COMMONS CROSSWORD

"Recovery"



Across

1. Subsided
7. Took a wrong turn
14. Harmonize
20. Went bad, milkwise
21. Polish dumpling
22. Not quite failing
23. Free from haywire
24. X, R, PG-13, etc.
25. Edmonton squad
26. Civil rights gp.
27. Banks in modeling
28. Sandy links hazard
30. Facts and figures
31. Start of a question
36. Before, literarily
37. Locket load
38. Have no love for
39. Spots for RNs
40. Take five
42. Be wise about
43. "__ Fideles"
44. Folk legend
46. Pass through time
48. Arab sultanate
49. Fabric flaw
50. Question, part 2
60. Fable teller
61. Jugs with spouts
62. "Peachy keen!"
63. Jazz style for Diz
65. Blanchett of "Babel"
66. Quick and lithe
67. Chili con __
68. Gloomy
69. Smelter fodder
70. Venezuelan plain
71. Tree trunks
72. Came to light
73. End of the question
77. "And that's __ all!"
78. Slip __ (goof up)
79. WWII zone
80. Cinch
82. Sports venues
85. Deafening racket
87. Cowardly Lion player
91. HBO rival
92. Spanish to the Spanish
94. Poet who went to hell
96. Barman for Homer
97. Answer to the question
101. Lab gel
102. Place with 49 UN members
103. Hardly fooled by
104. Of the cheek
105. Taker by force
107. Lowish poker hand
110. Model Bundchen
111. Capacious digs
112. Cause of a blackout
113. Brings together
114. "Mad Men" note takers
115. Boxing great Jack
116. Army meals

Down

1. Into pieces
2. Island where Dutch is spoken
3. Morning songs
4. "Fast Car" singer Chapman
5. Sniggling alternative
6. POTUS No. 34
7. Most nimble
8. Papal crowns
9. Pave over
10. Interviewer Melber
11. Hither's opposite
12. Easter game
13. Break in or up
14. Goes beyond fostering
15. "Enough, already!"
16. Mark over an n
17. Not exactly raring
18. Cultivate
19. Op-ed pieces
27. Friend's pronoun
29. End in __ (draw)
32. Goaded
33. Morticia's family
34. Geoffrey of fashion
35. Prefix for spiral things
41. Lake near Reno
43. Love of Luigi
45. Make a choice
47. Lacuna
48. Cat with spots
49. __ of passage
50. City on the Brazos
51. Vital pump
52. Prefix on path
53. Founded
54. "Dallas" clan name
55. Not digital
56. WNBA coach Fisher
57. Matisse's "La __"
58. Paperless read
59. Pour Gatorade over, say
64. Carnivore's catch
66. Came to perch
67. Pacific salmon
68. Show your hunger
70. A.k.a. inchworm
71. Leave breezeless
72. Fitting
74. Crime lab sample
75. Capital in Tonkin
76. Blabbermouth
80. Farmyard nanny
81. Somebody
82. Yeti and Bigfoot, supposedly
83. Sent wirelessly
84. Improve, as images
85. Roger of The Who
86. FAQ answers
88. Lucky charms
89. Where Puff frolicked
90. Set right
91. Key of D's pair
93. Entanglements
94. Levertov of poetry
95. Trim for a royal robe
98. Keith of country
99. Daytime dramas
100. Caravan's relief
106. Author Umberto
108. Bark beetle victim
109. Dot on a die, e.g.
110. Makeup of some bubbles

Last issue's solution

"Two Heads Are Better Than None"

H	O	O	F	■	B	R	O	N	C	■	M	O	D	I	■	C	F	L	A	T
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2020 by Brendan Emmett Quigley

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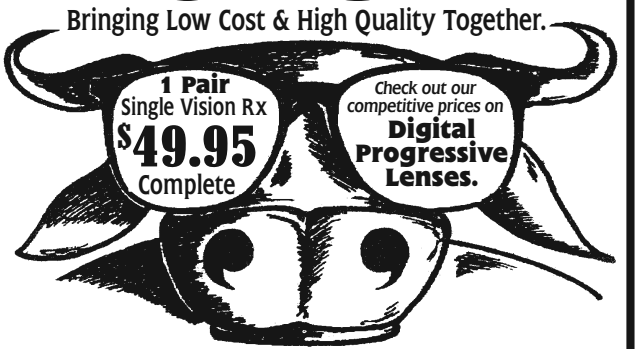

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A perfect holiday meal, close to home

Agency of Agriculture, Vermont Fresh Network connect local farms and families for the holidays

MONTPELIER—This year's holiday will see people staying closer to home. Some might be prepping holiday dinners for the first time.

To take some of the pressure off, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture has collected tips for creating your local meal, no matter your situation.

• Looking to support local farms and producers? The Vermont Fresh Network's Local Holiday Meal Guide (**bit.ly/589_mealguide**) helps you find where to shop for local turkey and other ingredients for your holiday meal.

• You can also plan a trip to a holiday farmers' market and use the DiginVT map (**diginvt.com/places**) to search by category and location for other ingredients to complete your meal.

• What about the finishing touch? From sweet to savory condiments, no holiday table need be without Vermont specialty products for dessert.

• Maybe you're cooking for the first time? No sweat — everyone could use some inspiration! DiginVT offers a roundup of late autumn recipes from Vermont recipe writers. You might also try one of the holiday recipes shared by Vermont Fresh Network member caterers.

• You can find a recipe for maple-cranberry sweet potatoes and other great ideas to sweeten your dish with online recipes from the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association (**vermontmaple.org/recipes**) and follow along on Facebook (**facebook.com/vermont.maple**) as the trade organization shares other recipes throughout the season.

• Still nervous? Lean on Vermont's local chefs! Many restaurants, co-ops, or other retail stores not only share dozens of locally inspired recipes over the holiday season but also offer cooking classes and pre-ordering of perfectly prepared sides or even the main dish.

No matter how your holiday meal comes together this year, be sure to share your Rooted in Vermont experience on Instagram (**instagram.com/rootedinvermont**).

HOLIDAY BRIEFS

BFFDA gets downtown Bellows Falls ready for holidays

BELLOWS FALLS — All are invited to join the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance (BFDDA) for Light Up BF on Shop Small Saturday, Nov. 28, at 4 p.m.

Thanks to local businesses, volunteers, and past board members, and using grant funding from the state, BFDDA is finalizing a 10-year design project.

The work has included year-round lighting in the trees on The Square, festival lights across the streets, lights and garland on all lampposts, and new holiday banners in the downtown area.

With the lighting of the Christmas tree by Rockingham Roasters in The Square and various business window displays on Nov. 28, downtown Bellows Falls will be a spectacle for visitors and residents alike.

With COVID-19 protocols in effect, BFDDA asks visitors to watch from their vehicles and tune in to WOOL-FM 91.5 for old-time favorites and local news from 3 to 5 p.m.

BFDDA also sponsors the Shop Local card program. Shoppers can receive stamps for purchases at Bellows Falls, Rockingham, Westminster, Saxtons River, and Grafton businesses, filling one card with stamps for every $100 spent in the area.

Filled cards must be submitted by Saturday, Jan. 2 to enter prize drawings. (Event organizers from the BFDDA remind participants to include their phone number for prizes.) Drawing takes place during the first week of January.

Other Bellows Falls area business activities include Ladies Weekend on Dec. 11, 12, and 13 and Not Just For Men's Weekend on Dec. 18, 19, and 20.

Virtual and live events for the whole family are scheduled at Halladay's Flowers & Gifts (59 The Square) and the Threaded Trunk Boutique (29 Westminster St.).

The Bellows Falls Opera House, once again closed for films until further notice because of the recent surge in coronavirus infections and COVID-19 cases statewide, will be selling the Triple Up (popcorn, drinks, and candy).

For more details on all the holiday doings, visit **bellowsfallsvt.org**.

Chamber presents Holly Days, Holly Nights 2020

BRATTLEBORO — Those who shop and dine in town for the holidays can find themselves eligible to win a $250 gift certificate.

From Friday, Dec. 4 through Sunday, Dec. 6, shoppers can present a Holly Days, Holly Nights savings card at participating businesses to receive a special deal: The B's Nest, Brattleboro Food Co-op, Brown & Roberts Ace Hardware, Burrows Specialized Sports, Cara Wolff Jewelry & Boutique, Fire Arts Vermont, Kitchen Sync, Lawton Floor Design, Malisun, Martin's Fireside True Value, Penelope Wurr, Sam's Outdoor Outfitters, The Shoe Tree, Vermont Artisan Designs, Vermont Country Deli, Vermont Hempicurean, Windham Flowers, and Zephyr Designs.

The savings card can be found in the Nov. 25 edition of the *Reformer*, at the participating businesses, or at the Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce, 180 Main St. (next to Brown & Roberts).

Make a purchase of $20 or more at any five retail shops or restaurants and be eligible to win one of three $250 gift certificates to the Brattleboro business of your choice, compliments of the Chamber.

The entry form on the official Holly Days, Holly Nights card can be mailed or dropped off at the Chamber of Commerce, along with copies of sales receipts. You may also email your entry form and receipts to **info@BrattleboroChamber.org**.

Entry forms must be received or postmarked by Monday, Dec. 14.

For more information, call the Chamber at 802-254-4565.

Bayada Hospice to host a virtual remembrance tree gathering

BRATTLEBORO — A virtual gathering at the Remembrance Tree at the Creamery Covered Bridge will be led by Susie Webster-Toleno on Friday, Nov. 27, at 4 p.m.

Due to the state restrictions on public gatherings, this event will be livestreamed for the public on the Bayada Hospice, Brattleboro VT Facebook page at **facebook.com/BAYADAVZH**. Everyone is invited to attend the gathering online.

This virtual gathering will provide an opportunity for the community to join safely to share remembrance of lost loved ones as we enter the season of peace and light.

It will include a reading and the tying ribbons of remembrance for those lost onto the Remembrance Tree.

Everyone is encouraged to request a memorial ribbon bearing the names or initials of a lost loved one be placed on the tree by the Bayada Hospice team by calling Tina McGrevy at 802-490-2099.

The tree will remain lit and on display throughout the holiday season, starting Nov. 28.

All are encouraged to visit the tree to remember loved ones. Ribbon will be provided at the bridge through the holiday season, and everyone is welcome to tie a ribbon of remembrance onto the tree in person.

When visiting the tree, social distancing from those not of your household is required. Parking is available in Living Memorial Park south of the bridge. Please do not park on Route 9.

Next Stage hosts mini-comics workshop

PUTNEY — On Saturday, Nov. 28, from 10 to 11 a.m. via Zoom, Next Stage, in partnership with the Putney Public Library, invites you to come create your own characters and make new mini-comics with Marek Bennett.

Participants will get a review of key cartooning techniques and perform dramatic readings of one another's work. For more about Bennett's work, visit **MarekBennett.com**.

A link to the virtual meeting will be sent out to participants before the event.

To sign up, visit **bit.ly/589_marek**.

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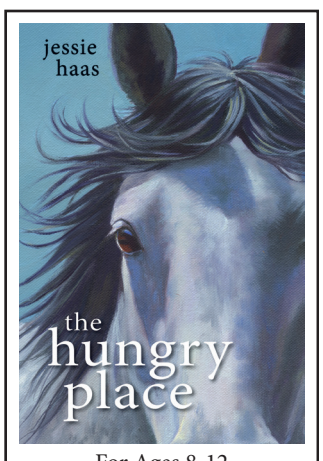

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SECTION D
ARTS.....D4
CALENDAR.....D4

VIEWPOINT

Thanksgiving dinner for 30,000

'The holiday spirit invites us all to step in to both give and receive. If abundance of love and food is there, then what we have left to find is hope.'

STEPHANIE BONIN, *who serves as director of the Downtown Brattleboro Alliance and of the Everyone Eats Brattleboro Hub, compiled these observations from participants in the Vermont Everyone Eats program, for which the local effort served as a pilot program and inspiration for expansion statewide.*

Brattleboro

RAISINS IN your stuffing. Running 3.2 miles at your town's Turkey Trot. A shared Thanksgiving meal at your community church sitting next to a person you just met.

Each of us has our own holiday traditions, many of which will look very different this year. This is a loss, and we all feel it.

But abundance remains in our community — an abundance of love, food, and people taking care of each other.

Vermont Everyone Eats (VEE) is a program that is funded by the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund and made possible through a grant provided by the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development to Southeastern Vermont Community Action.

VEE is addressing not only how we approach food insecurity, saving our businesses, and supporting our local farmers and producers, but also how we can change our thinking around our solutions and holistically approach the needs of our community.

If there's any disagreement about who this program helps more, we are in a good position.

To date and statewide, Vermont Everyone Eats has distributed more than 200,000 meals, supported more than 100 restaurants, and worked with many Vermont farmers and producers.

And to celebrate Thanksgiving, VEE hubs around the state will distribute 30,000 meals. In some communities, restaurants will be providing turkey with all the fixings, while others are providing creative alternatives to the holiday.

The holiday spirit invites us all to step in to both give and receive. If abundance of love and food is there, then what we have left to find is hope.

Thousands of Vermonters have participated in Everyone Eats. We turn to three of them to share their Thanksgiving story and how they find hope during a pandemic that has changed everything.

Leda Scheintaub, *co-owner, with Nash Patel, of Dosa Kitchen South Indian Soul Food restaurant, Brattleboro:* After five years as a food truck, Dosa Kitchen opened its first brick-and-mortar storefront on Feb. 1. That six-week honeymoon period was followed by closing, then regrouping to serve our customers safely via outdoor dining and curbside pickup.

When the Brattleboro Everyone Eats Hub launched, it quickly became our number-one source of income. While restaurants throughout the world have been closing by scores, Everyone Eats has helped keep Brattleboro's dining culture alive.

I grew up vegetarian, and while my parents were still around, I would cook our traditional Thanksgiving lasagna in their home in upstate New York. Recent Thanksgivings have centered around friends and turkey from Wild Carrot Farm, but in the spirit of my family heritage, my husband, Nash Patel, and I will be cooking an all-American vegetarian meal option for Everyone Eats! this holiday.

COURTESY PHOTO

The sun sets on volunteers ready to serve meals.

Testing out and scaling up our recipes to feed 100 people, with leftovers, has put me in a full-hearted state of anticipation reminiscent of shared holidays past and hopeful for days when everyone eats at the table together again.

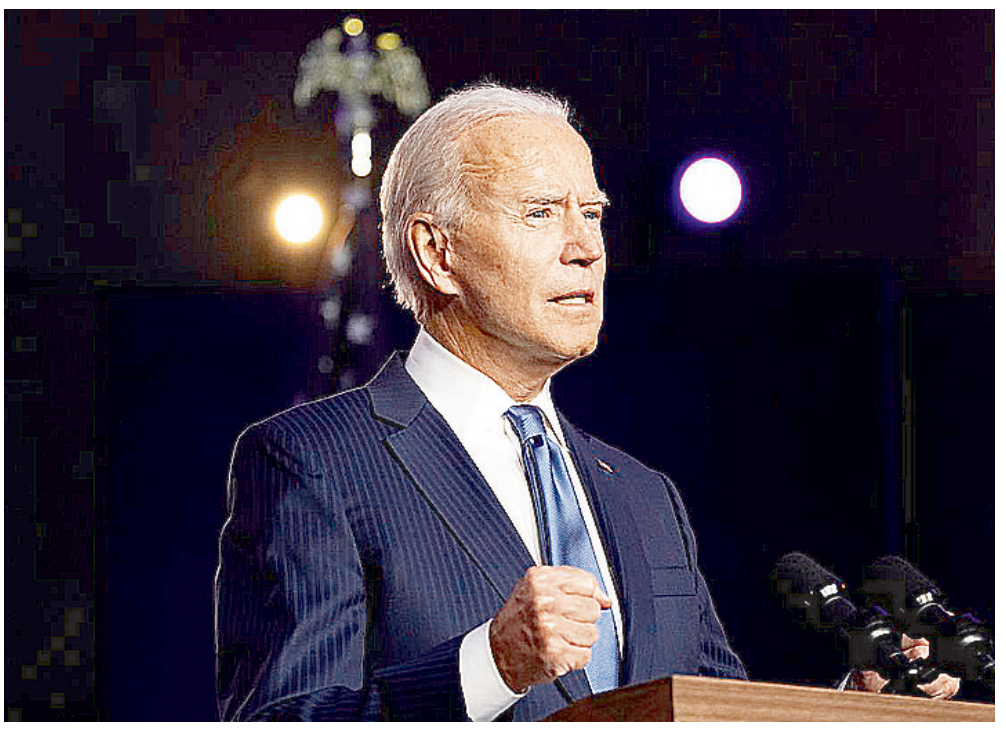
Jean Hamilton, *Vermont Everyone Eats State Coordinator:* Seven years ago, my life was in transition. As is often true with transitions, I was overcome with many different feelings: fear, excitement, hope, and uncertainty.

Amidst these feelings, I decided to "politely" decline my family's Thanksgiving invitation and instead travel to New Orleans, a place I go when I need to consult my heart and soul.

The dynamic land and vibrant culture of New Orleans has taught me to welcome the unexpected. My host had no plans for a sit-down feast; rather, we shared oyster dressing (because I insisted), hand pies, and other goodies we

■ SEE **THANKSGIVING,** D2

VIEWPOINT



In January, Joseph R. Biden Jr. will be inaugurated as the 46th president of the United States.

Changing of the guard

'If we stay home on Inauguration Day, we will gain nothing from this 'victory.' We have gained a moment to breathe, to fight again, by getting the KKK out of the White House for at least a brief time.'

BERT PICARD *often contributes his take on politics to these pages.*

South Newfane

FOR MANY, many people, their first reaction to the election in the United States of America, even as it was happening, was shock and revulsion that the U.S. people did not repudiate Donald Trump with a stronger margin of victory for Joseph Biden.

After four years, everyone knows what Trump stands for: open white supremacy, authoritarianism, misogyny, white resentment, calls to violence, cruelty, and so on.

That he nevertheless received 72 million votes is a clear statement of the sickness and madness of this racist, settler-colonial monstrosity called the USA.

Let us be very clear: 72 million Americans chose white supremacy and authoritarianism — or, at the least, those qualities did not bother them.

AT THE FOUNDING of this country, the Southern slave-owning class was given power disproportionate to their small numbers. They ruled as a minority. When their rule was

■ SEE **TRUMP AND BIDEN,** D2

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■ Trump and Biden

FROM SECTION FRONT

challenged by the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860, they seceded, and we had civil war.

The brief period of Reconstruction after the war, when Black people had political power and organized along with poor whites under protection of Federal troops, was betrayed in 1877. Former slaves were again denied the vote and were terrorized by the Ku Klux Klan and lynchings for another hundred years.

Then the civil rights movement was betrayed as well, with many of its leaders murdered by 1968. This culminated in the election of Ronald Reagan, who by no accident started his campaign in the small town in Mississippi where three civil rights workers were murdered by the KKK.

And now, after the Black Lives Matter movement, and a Black president (never mind his politics), white USA has once again betrayed the words of the Declaration of Independence. They voted to Make America Great Again — that is, make America white and patriarchal again. A clear call to white supremacy.

White America has clearly proclaimed they prefer autocracy, if democracy is to be multi-racial. This country will never change.

DONALD TRUMP has lost the election, but Trumpism is stronger than ever.

He has created a powerful cult of personality. His disputed defeat serves him almost as well as victory. He continues to stir the white resentment and hatred, the alternate reality in which his followers live, fueled by Fox News and Internet conspiracies.

When 100,000 of his supporters marched in Washington 12 days after the election (which Biden won by seven million votes), they claimed that Trump had won and that they were being cheated of their natural due as white Americans.

The election has settled nothing. The militias will now be a permanent part of any protest — they are not going away.

Trump did not have the support of the military for his coup, but he has strong support in all the militarily-armed police departments across the country, in the Border Patrol, in the Federal Department of Homeland Security, and in the prison guards, all of whom are highly organized and have fascistic unions.

HERE IS the reality: 14 heavily armed militia men were arrested by the FBI for planning to kidnap the governor of the state of Michigan, to try her for treason, and to hang her — because she is a woman, she is a Democrat, and she ordered the wearing of face masks to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

And neither Trump not any Republican politician has denounced these men, or their plans — no, in fact, they continue to attack her and call for rebellion against her!

But this is the USA today: The land that assassinated John F. Kennedy; his brother, Robert; Martin Luther King Jr., et al. So, should I not be surprised?

I THINK IT WAS a mistake for those of us who were prepared to defend the vote not to come out in the streets in a show of force, even if an actual coup did not happen.

Millions were ready to respond to organized calls to defend the vote, but the calls never came.

The first day of the vote, the Republicans did not seem to support Trump's lies about victory — maybe they were afraid of mayhem in the streets if they tried anything?

But as we stayed home, the Republican Party became emboldened and came to support all of Trump's lies and attempts to impede the vote count. They could do nothing only because the Biden margin of victory — seven million votes — was too clear.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY is now clearly the party of the whites. When President Lyndon Johnson, pushed by the massive civil rights movement, signed the Civil Rights Act of 1965, he said that with that action he would cause the Democrats to lose the South for a generation.

He was right, and then some: it's been more than a generation.

In 2008, Obama received 42 percent of the white vote; in 2012, 39 percent. He won the white vote only in the same states that had voted for Abraham Lincoln. The Civil War was won on the battlefield, but the South won the peace.

The Republican Party is a minority party. But white supremacy ruled the South as a minority for hundreds of years. Republicans know how to enforce minority rule, and that is what Trump has emboldened them to do, openly, in daylight.

A minority party must move to authoritarianism if it intends to rule. So we now have one centrist, capitalist party and one openly authoritarian party. We have not even had a truly functioning bourgeois democracy because of the distortion caused by slavery, segregation, and racism. We are still fighting just to have a right to vote!

Trump's presidency was very much a response to a Black president and to Black Lives Matter in the streets. The psychology of caste, of identity and fear of losing status, is much larger than any political or class questions with his voters.

When the Left says that white workers are voting against their own (economic) interests, they do not realize that these workers have their own way of seeing things, and they see the wages of whiteness as in their long-term interest, even if they sacrifice health care or other immediate interests.

Their place in the dominant caste is more important than anything to them, and they love Trump ferociously, as he reflects their white narcissism back onto them.

They are very clear: they do not want health care or any social programs if it means that Black people will also benefit. This racism is the secret behind the fact that the U.S. is the only industrialized nation that does not have national health care.

I THINK THAT MORE police killings of Black men started under Barack Obama, precisely because white supremacy felt threatened by a Black man who "did not know his place," and such individuals felt they had to shoot Black people to "keep them in their place," as was done with lynching before.

Police killings are the new lynching. Prisons are the new plantation. What has changed?

Black Lives Matter also rose up in those years, to challenge this. As the whole empire, and capitalist system, continues to crumble, and with the rapidly increasing climate disasters, can we at least prevent lynchings and civil war?

Can we build communities of resistance, of egalitarian sharing, while we try to prevent the worst as capitalism, in fact civilization, collapses?

Can we remain human, and help each other?

WHAT OF Black Lives Matter? Now that the people leading this movement have inspired us all and have gotten rid of Trump, are they to be abandoned and betrayed again?

The young people will have a lot to say.

And Biden? We know what he is: a return to business as usual, a stable hand for an empire in decline. Yes, the young climate protestors, the women, the Black Lives protestors, the Indigenous fighting pipelines and protecting water: all of us will try to push Biden as hard as we can.

I would like to see a massive show of force in Washington on Jan. 20, when the new president will be inaugurated. He needs to be greeted with massive protests, as massive as would have been there had Trump won.

If we stay home, we will gain nothing from this "victory." We have gained a moment to breathe, to fight again, by getting the KKK out of the White House for at least a brief time.

That was necessary for all the struggles.

BUT TRUMPISM IS strong, and the neo-liberal Biden will solve nothing.

To paraphrase Eddie S. Glaude Jr. in his magnificent book *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and its Urgent Lessons for Our Own*, we are faced once again in our history with the question: How do we begin again, faced with another cowardly betrayal by white America, who have again chosen whiteness over democracy, privilege over decency?

What do you do when you have given up on your country but you must still take up your responsibilities — to live, to fight, to help the new generations?

■ Thanksgiving

FROM SECTION FRONT

collected on our way to the horse race.

Turns out Thanksgiving is the opening day at the famous Fair Grounds Race Course and Slots!

No turkey. No mashed potatoes. No grumpy relatives. Though I missed these traditions, I am forever grateful for the new friends I made and the reminder that within the discomfort of uncertainty lie opportunities to adapt, learn, and expand our hearts.

This year, I call on the lessons learned from that New Orleans Thanksgiving, as I don't know exactly what my table will look like or who will be around it.

But I am filled with hope by the spontaneous care and community I have observed across Vermont in response to the painful challenges we have faced this year.

I am grateful for the adaptability and resilience demonstrated by my neighbors, friends, and colleagues in the face of many hard realities.

Everyone Eats has shown me that abundance is always available to us, when we come together to ask for help and share our strengths.

Tara Pereira, *Vermont Fresh Network executive director:* When we were younger, my husband and I would sometimes spend Thanksgiving day at the movie theater and then order takeout. But now, like many, my holidays have involved either traveling to visit family in Vermont or visiting family in other states.

This year, Thanksgiving will look different. And that's OK. I'm looking forward to cooking a small and locally grown Thanksgiving dinner for our family of four and eating together.

Difficult times reveal the things that we most value. Right now, I think about the importance of connection and community. Cooking and feeding others is a bridge to both.

In 2020, our farmers played a vital role in helping us access food in new ways by adding CSAs, farmstands, and online ordering to their business.

While many businesses had to shut down this year, our farmers couldn't. Chickens still laid eggs, cows still provided milk, and our farms still raised the turkeys that many will have on their tables.

We all may live in different regions of the state, but the Vermont Everyone Eats program reminds us how large our community really is and how generous it is. Volunteers, local farms, local restaurants, and statewide partners have all made this program possible.

As we sit down to a smaller holiday dinner table this year, raise your glass and take a moment. Send warm thoughts to all our neighbors across the state and to the farmers who played a large role in bringing this meal to your table.

COVID-19 is being seen as an accelerant of the problems that have been with us for a long time. We were fragile before this health and economic crisis hit, and volunteer-led events like community Thanksgivings all over the state were critical in meeting the needs of Vermonters.

Everyone Eats stepped in as a new approach to connect our business community, local food systems, and food insecurity systems as part of the solution.

Hope will come in the form of what we take away from this global crisis. Could what we learn from this collaboration be something we can continue to call on to build resilience long after the crisis is over?

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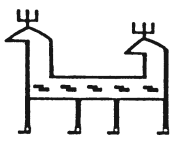
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bc tv **LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**
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Hooker Dunham Presents – SOLOs Episode 1: Mon. 2:00p, Tue. 5:00a, Thu. 9:00a, Fri. 8:45p, Sat. 1:30p, Sun. 5:00a	**Brattleboro Selectboard Mtg. 11/17/20:** Tue. 6:15p (LIVE), Thu. 1:00p, Sun. 8:30p
Here We Are with guest Olga Peters - Journalist: Mon. 8:00p, Tue. 6:30a, Thu. 2:00p, Fri. 6:30p, Sat. 9:00a, Sun. 3:00p	**Brattleboro Community Safety Review Committee Mtg. 11/9/20:** Mon. 7:05p, Tue. 12:05p, Fri. 8:30a, Sun. 12:00p
Brattleboro Rotary Club Speaker Series – Episode 23 – Stephen Dotson: Mon. 8:30p, Tue. 5:45a, Wed. 1:00p, Fri. 8:00p, Sat. 7:30a, Sun. 3:30p	**Guilford Selectboard Mtg. 11/9/20:** Mon. 6:15a, Tue. 9:45p, Wed. 1:00p
Calvary Chapel of the West River Valley - Weekly Service: Tue. 9:00a, Fri. 7:00a, Sun. 10:00a	**Putney Selectboard Mtg. 11/18/20:** Sat. 8:00p, Sun. 5:30a & 6:00p
First Baptist Church – Weekly Service: Wed. 10:30a, Fri. 2:00p, Sun. 7:00a	**Dummerston Selectboard Mtg. 11/18/20:** Fri. 6:00p, Sat. 7:30a
Ruck-Up Veterans Outpost Coin Drop 10/18/20: Mon. 9:10p, Tue. 12:05p, Wed. 5:00a, Fri. 4:00p, Sat. 8:10p, Sun. 12:40p	**Vernon Selectboard Mtg. 11/17/20:** Thu. 7:00p, Fri. 6:00a, Sat. 3:00p
Guilford Community Church - Weekly Service: Wed. 6:30a, Sun. 8:00a	**Townshend Selectboard Mtg. 11/10/20:** Tue. 6:00a, Wed. 1:45p, Thu. 9:30p
First Congregational Church – Weekly Service: Tue. 10:00a, Thu. 3:00p, Sun. 6:00a	**Jamaica Selectboard Mtg. 11/9/20:** Mon. 12:00p, Wed. 6:00a
Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration Part 1 - 2020: Mon. 6:30a, Tue. 4:30p, Thu. 8:30p, Fri. 5:00a, Sat. 12:00p, Sun. 8:30p	**Energy Week with George Harvey & Tom Finnell:** Mon. 9:00a, Tue. 5:00p, Wed. 12:00p, Thu. 10:30a, Sun. 11:00a
Brattleboro Gallery Walk – Virtual Gallery Walk 11/6/20: Mon. 9:00a, Tue. 8:00p, Thu. 4:00p, Fri. 6:20a, Sat. 6:30p, Sun. 11:00a	**River Valleys Unified School District Bd Mtg. 11/16/20:** Wed. 8:30p, Thu. 8:30a, Sat. 12:30p
PR Benefits – Keith Sherman: Mon. 12:05p, Tue. 3:00p, Wed. 9:00a, Fri. 6:00a, Sat. 5:00p, Sun. 8:00p	**Newfane Selectboard Mtg. 11/16/20:** Wed. 6:00p, Thu. 6:00a, Fri. 2:30p
PR Benefits – Episode 25 – Tom Garrity: Mon. 10:40a, Tue. 6:05p, Thu. 2:30p, Sat. 2:10p, Sun. 9:30p	**Windham Southeast School District Bd Mtg. 11/18/20:** Sun. 8:00a & 2:00p
St. Michael's Catholic Church Mass: Sun. 2:00p & 7:00p, Tue. 7:00a & 2:00p	**West River Education District Bd Mtg. 11/16/20:** Fri. 8:30p, Sat. 5:00a
Brattleboro Rotary Club Speaker Series – Episode 22 – Jonathan Potter: Mon. 6:30p, Tue. 11:00a, Thu. 1:30p, Sat. 6:30a, Sun. 6:00p	**The David Pakman Show:** Mon. 8:00a, Tue. 9:00a, Wed. 5:00p, Fri. 10:30a, Sun. 5:00p
Brattleboro Drive-Thru Halloween: Mon. 5:00a, Wed. 1:40p, Sat. 8:30p, Sun. 4:10p	**Brattleboro Development Review Board Mtg. 11/18/20:** Sat. 10:00a
Community Conversations on Compassion – Fall 2020 Series - 9/28/20: Mon. 7:30a, Tue. 5:30p, Thu. 8:00p, Fri. 11:30a, Sat. 1:00p, Sun. 6:30p	**Brattleboro Housing Partnerships Bd Mtg. 11/9/20:** Mon. 3:55p, Wed. 11:05a

Note: Schedule subject to change.
View full schedule and watch online at **brattleboroTV.org**
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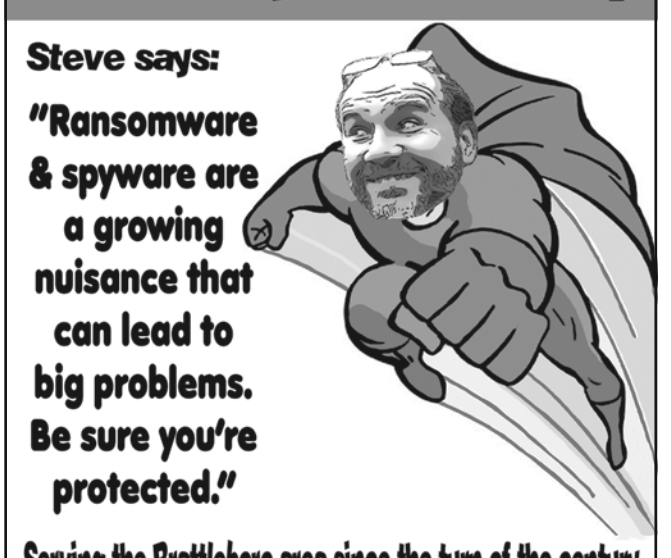

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STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT **PROBATE DIVISION**
Windham Unit **Docket No.: 20-PR-01421 Wmpr**
In re ESTATE of: Jeffrey S. Burkert

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Jeffrey S. Burkert (Decedent)
late of Rockingham, Vermont (Decedent's town of residence)

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. **The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.**

Massucco & Stern, P.C.
Dated: November 18, 2020 90 Westminster St.
Allene B. Lubin, Executor/Administrator Bellows Falls, VT 05101

Name of Publication: The Commons
Publication Date: November 25, 2020

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Windham Unit, Probate Division
Address of Probate Court: 30 Putney Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT **PROBATE DIVISION**
Windham Unit **Docket No.: 20-PR-01446 Wmpr**
In re ESTATE of: Garold L. Richards

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Garold L. Richards (Decedent)
late of Rockingham, Vermont (Decedent's town of residence)

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. **The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.**

c/o L. Raymond Massucco, Esq, Massucco & Stern, P.C.
Dated: November 18, 2020 90 Westminster St.
Joyce L. Richards, Executor/Administrator Bellows Falls, VT 05101

Name of Publication: The Commons
Publication Date: November 25, 2020

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Windham Unit, Probate Division
Address of Probate Court: 30 Putney Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301

LETTERS FROM READERS

Tom French, Bob Tortolani, and Don Spencer have helped countless vets

This Thanksgiving season, due to COVID-19 and the precariousness of life, I find myself feeling gratitude for each small gesture and kind word extended in everyday life.

Perhaps because we now live under a larger shadow of death, I no longer take these ordinary niceties for granted. Has COVID-19 brought forth more simple acts of kindness among strangers, or am I now more aware of a humble graciousness that has quietly been here all along?

I feel grateful to inhabit a town where people volunteer to do things for one another. Everyone Eats is just one example of unsung volunteers supporting both local restaurants and people with food insecurity. I wish I could give recognition to each person making a difference in our community, but I will settle for acknowledging three people whom I have never met.

Tom French, Bob Tortolani, and Don Spencer have helped countless vets to live better lives. My husband is one of them.

If someone had told me 25 years ago that he would be attending veterans meetings and supporting other vets who feel isolated, I would never have believed them.

The trauma vets endure often leave them isolated and unable to receive the support they need. The kindness and persistence of many vets reaching out to my husband and offering him their time has transformed his life.

Bob Tortolani is the central spoke around which local veteran outreach revolves. He is sensitive to any suffering a fellow vet endures, and he takes the time to reach out and check in on others.

Tom French recently received the Vermont Bar Association's 2020 Pro Bono Service Award for his volunteer legal work for vets locally and around the country, an honor that he well deserves. There is a beautiful, detailed article (**bit.ly/589-french**) about his work in the fall 2019 Vermont Bar Association newsletter.

Don Spencer, in spite of his own physical disabilities, makes time to counsel and advise vets struggling with mental health issues resulting from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). (And he raises delicious turkeys!)

Thank you Bob, Tom, Don, and every other volunteer for making our community a compassionate place. We never fully realize the goodness that ripples out from each of our isolated actions, but collectively they have the power to heal division and make our community and America kind, united, and great again.

Arena Israel
Brattleboro

We have to embrace the mess of democracy. But how?

RE: "The election is over, but what do we do now?" [Viewpoint, Nov. 11]:

I feel compelled to respond to Jim Freedman's confusion and distress in his Viewpoint, which I share.

I believe that Donald Trump is a sociopath and is bent on destroying a political system that we call democracy, with the collusion of a sycophant Congress.

I also believe that Donald Trump supports white supremacy, a cultural belief that tolerates if not mandates the disenfranchisement, subjugation, terrorizing and lynching of any persons not "white."

My sibling is a Trump supporter. It confounds me. I am so far at a loss how to register my disappointment in this person, so close to my heart. I love her and revile the workings of her heart and mind. It is not just politics — it is a way of being in the world, bigger than the cultural statement of religious affiliation. I also have neighbors, with whom I am friendly, whom I like, and who are Trump supporters.

I think — often — about the rise of fascism in Europe and how Hitler came to power and implemented his murderous vision for an improved world. What are we called upon to do — and when?

I was born in 1951 and have lived in a fool's paradise, apparently, to have been so blindsided by the events of 2016. However, all that said, I am grieved by several of Mr. Freedman's statements.

Vermont is not "this land of Sanders." Sanders is our senator, yes. But by winning a vote to represent us in Congress, Sanders does not paint every one of us with his — or even the Democratic Party's — brush.

Our political processes are not a zero-sum game. Democracy is messy — how many times have we heard that? If there is *one thing* we have learned from these past four years, it has to be to embrace the mess. Whoever succeeds in cleaning up the mess is our next dictator.

Which leads me to Mr. Freedman's desperate plea: "You are either for or against, with no fraternization permitted." This remark strikes terror into my heart, no less than any evil Trump or his minions have so far been capable of.

I will continue to fraternize — our survival depends on it. I am as much at a loss how to do it, why to do it, how long to do it as the next person, but I cannot exorcise people whom I know from my life on the basis of a vote or a flag.

Not yet.

Lisa Chase
Putney

KEEP *the* PRESSES ROLLING

WE ARE LIVING in unprecedented times, when all news operations are as fragile as they are urgently necessary.

Coronavirus be damned — together, we have made this work! Thanks to an extra helping of generosity from our donors, we have weathered an obvious pandemic-related loss of advertising — and we've still kept our budget balanced. (We admit we're really proud of that.)

But for us to keep making you this newspaper during the pandemic, we need your continued enthusiastic support.

We're not going to shake you down for money if, like so many of us, you don't have it to spare. But if you do have the motive, the means, and the belief in *The Commons* and you can afford a contribution or a new membership, your support will help us to continue bringing you — and thousands of other readers — our unique blend of news and views for Windham County.

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Stay healthy, friends.

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'Roots of Southern Appalachian Dance' subject of Zoom lecture from Next Stage

PUTNEY—Next Stage Arts Project and the Putney Historical Society present "Hoedowns, Reels, and Frolics: Roots and Branches of Southern Appalachian Dance," a virtual lecture by Phil Jamison, a scholar of traditional music and dance, on Thursday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m.

The southern Appalachian square dance is a hybrid dance form that developed in the American South during the 19th century, and like the Appalachian musical traditions, these dances reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the region.

In this Zoom event, Jamison examines the multicultural roots and historical development of these dances and identifies the components of earlier European, African, and Native American dance forms that combined to make them uniquely American.

He will also discuss African-American and Native American musicians and callers who at one time were present in New England. These include African-American musician and barber John Putnam (1825–1895), who was active as a fiddler and dance prompter in Greenfield, Mass., during the 19th century.

Jamison is nationally known as a dance caller, old-time musician, flatfoot dancer, and scholar of traditional Appalachian dance.

A 2017 inductee to the Blue Ridge Music Hall of Fame, he has called dances, performed, and taught at music festivals and dance events throughout the U.S. and overseas since the early 1970s, including 40 years as a member of the Green Grass Cloggers.

Over the last 30 years, Jamison has done extensive research in the area of Appalachian dance, and his book *Hoedowns, Reels, and Frolics: Roots and Branches of Southern Appalachian Dance* tells the story behind the square dances, step dances, reels, and other forms of dance practiced in southern Appalachia.

He has given numerous presentations on Appalachian dance — from the Smithsonian Institution to Beijing, China — and he teaches Appalachian music and dance at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, N.C., where for 25 years, he served as coordinator of the Old-Time Music and Dance Week at the Swannanoa Gathering.

Proceeds from this event benefit the Putney Historical Society. Advance tickets are $10 for the Zoom presentation or $22 for the Zoom plus a 2021 Putney Historical Society calendar.

For more information and to register, visit **nextstagearts.org**.

MARA KOENIG/U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE MIDWEST

"Monarch Butterfly Migration Shanty," an example of the type of ice shanties that will be competing this winter in the Artful Ice Shanties Design-Build Competition.

BMAC, Retreat Farm seek entries for first-ever Artful Ice Shanties Design-Build Competition

BRATTLEBORO—The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) and Retreat Farm present the inaugural Artful Ice Shanties Design-Build Competition.

Artists, ice fishing enthusiasts, tiny house aficionados, and design-builders of all ages and experience levels are invited to build artful ice shanties that will be displayed at Retreat Farm from Feb. 13 through Feb. 28. Entries can be built by individuals or by groups of friends, family members, classmates, office colleagues, or any kind of team.

Registration forms and details, including building specifications, are available at **brattleboromuseum.org**. There is no fee for entry, but interested parties are encouraged to register soon, as space is limited.

According to a news release, the inaugural competition "is a celebration of the artistic talent and creative ingenuity of the Brattleboro region as well as the long history and tradition of ice fishing at the Retreat Meadows. It is intended as a timely observance of the delightful possibilities of winter, at a time when being outdoors is safest."

Ice shanties submitted to the competition can be traditional or conceptual, functional or wacky, permanent or ephemeral. But they must be artful.

"For example, an individual or team might build an ice shanty that doubles as a radio station, pinhole camera, sauna, or dance floor; a game-themed ice shanty shaped like a giant chess piece; an interpretive-history-themed ice shanty that tells the story of an aspect of the heritage of our area; an ice shanty shaped like a fish; or an ice shanty that will have a second life after the competition as a ticket booth, warming hut, demonstration tiny house, soup shack, chicken coop, or, of course, a functional ice-fishing shanty," the contest organizers said.

A participant could also choose to build a traditional ice shanty, but one that is beautifully designed or decorated.

Most of the shanties will be displayed on solid ground in front of Retreat Farm, with a few placed on the Retreat Meadows ice. One or two might also be displayed in front of BMAC.

The use of recycled, repurposed, or donated materials is encouraged, but new materials are also permitted.

A panel of local judges will bestow a variety of light-hearted awards at an outdoor awards ceremony on Sunday, Feb. 14.

This event is presented in connection with two current BMAC exhibits, "Ice Shanties: Fishing, People & Culture" and "Erik Hoffner: Ice Visions," both on view through March 6.

arts & community CALENDAR

THURSDAY 26

Well-being

Medicare Open Enrollment: A Senior Solutions local Medicare counselor can: Help you compare your current Medicare health or drug plan with other Medicare plan choices; Help you sign up for a new plan; Help you avoid high-pressure sales tactics.
▶ *Through Monday, December 7.*
▶ *Phone Call. Information: 802-885-2669.*

Community building

Need Assistance Paying Your Internet Service Bill Due to COVID-Related Economic Hardship? (Online/Phone): If you need help with paying your internet service bill, you may be eligible for a grant from the VT COVID-19 Temporary Broadband Subsidy Program (TBS). The program is available to Vermont residential broadband customers who have experienced economic hardship due to the pandemic.
▶ *Residents have until 11/30 to apply for funding, and funding can be awarded retroactive to 3/1/2020 to cover unpaid broadband bills. Applicants are eligible for a credit worth up to $40 per month on their broadband bills from 3/1 to 12/30.*
▶ *Through Monday, November 30.*
▶ *Online. More info: publicservice.vermont.gov,* **psd.consumer@vermont.gov,** *800-622-4496, capi.epsd.vermont.gov/?q=node/51.*

Artist Development Grants - Call for Applications: Supporting artists at all stages of their careers to fund activities that enhance mastery of an artist's craft or skills/activities that increase the viability of an artist's business. Grants also support teaching artists in developing skills necessary to provide instruction in K-12 schools remotely during COVID-19 or support aspects of creating new work when the activity allows you to accept a rare important opportunity. Grant amounts range from $250-$1,000.
▶ *DL this round: 1/11/21. Applications evaluated in 3 areas: impact, planning, and budget. Priority given to first time grantees and proposals for rare or unique opportunities. The Artist Development program has supported 277 VT artists since 2009. For examples of previously funded projects, see list of recent grantees.*
▶ *Through Monday, January 11, 2021.*
▶ *Vermont Arts Council. Information: Full details and online application:* **vermontartscouncil.org/artistdevelopment.**

THURSDAY CONT.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service (via YouTube): Presented by the Brattleboro Area Interfaith Leaders Alliance (BAILA).
▶ *On YouTube by the afternoon of 11/26. Search for: "Interfaith Worship Service by BAILA - 11-26-2020".*
▶ *YouTube.*

Tag sales, auctions, bazaars

Strolling of the Heifers Announces Fundraising Auction (Online): Bid on awesome gifts, or treat yourself. Our generous donors have provided art, craft, food, tickets and so much more! This auction has heaps of great VT-made products from wellness to cheese. Since 2002, SOTH has been connecting people with healthy local food, encouraging and facilitating innovation and entrepreneurship in the farm/food sector, and supporting the development of stronger local food systems.
▶ *11/25: 10 a.m. - 12/6: 11 p.m. Our annual parade and festival brings thousands of people to Brattleboro to celebrate farms, farmers, delicious local food. Sadly, COVID-19 has put this event, our main fundraiser, on hold for now. We're still at work on our year-round mission and focusing on rebuilding/redirecting our programs to align with "the new normal." This fundraiser will help sustain us while we evaluate ways to continue.*
▶ *Through Sunday, December 6.*
▶ *Online. Information:* **32auctions.com/strollingoftheheifers.**

Visual arts and shows

NEWFANE Dara Carleton's "The Peace of Wild Things": Dara takes viewers into our lakes/streams with pictures taken from her kayak and into the lives found in the meadows and woodlands of southern VT. She calls her show "The Peace of Wild Things" after the Wendell Berry poem of the same name. Dara has been involved with photography since age 10. She has had solo exhibits and showings locally and has won awards for her wildlife photographs to include being recognized by NH Audubon.
▶ *Gallery and Library hours: Tues. 1-5 p.m., Weds. 2-6 p.m., Thur. 1-5 p.m., Fri. 2-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.*
▶ *Through Saturday, November 28.*
▶ *Free.*
▶ *Crowell Gallery at the Moore Free Library, 23 West St. Information: 802-365-7948;* **moorefreelibrary.wordpress.com.**

FRIDAY 27

Kids and families

Puppet Making for the Whole Family (Online): In the spirit of this year's virtual Putney Craft Tour, we invite you to join Shoshana Bass and Jana Zeller Shoshana Bass and Jana Zeller from Sandglass Theater. Using items found around the home, we'll create a beautiful little shadow box and animate 2-dimensional puppets on a screen.
▶ *11/27: 10 a.m. to 11/29 at 5 p.m. for an hour of puppet-making. Tune in anytime between these dates and times. Visit www.sandglasstheater.org.*
▶ *Through Sunday, November 29.*
▶ *Online.*

Community building

DOVER Dover Free Library Adopt a Book Fundraiser: By adopting a new book, DVD, or audio book, your tax-deductible donation allows you to choose preselected library materials that will enhance our collection. A bookplate showing your name will be placed in each item. You may choose to dedicate the items to the memory of, or in honor of someone special to you. Their name will also be shown on the bookplate. Just stop by the library, select an item(s) and make your check payable to the Dover Free Library.
▶ *If you are a member of a club or organization, adopting a book could be a group project, perhaps continuing from month-to month, or year-to-year.*
▶ *Through Thursday, December 31.*
▶ *Free.*
▶ *Dover Free Library, 22 Holland Rd. Information: 802-348-7488;* **doverfreelibrary1913.org.**

Arts and crafts

Shop the Annual Putney Craft Tour Collection (via Zoom): Glass Blowers, Potters, Jewelers, Weavers, Painters, Woodworkers, even Artisan Cheesemakers, Winemakers (19 in all) are opening their virtual studio doors - offering video demos, personal shopping experiences and studio visits via Zoom. Browse the site and discover more about these VT artisans. Visit often to find specials/deals from individual artisans and sign up to win a $100 gift certificate sponsored by the tour.
▶ *11/27: 10 a.m. shops open to 11/29: 5 p.m. shops close. Some artists are scheduling in person studio visits/virtual video chats by appointment.*
▶ *Through Sunday, November 29.*
▶ *Zoom. Information: www/***putneycrafts.com.**

SATURDAY 28

Performing arts

Minicomics Workshop (via Zoom): Next Stage, in partnership with the Putney Public Library, invites you to come create your own characters and make new mini-comics with Marek Bennett. Participants will get a review of key cartooning techniques and perform dramatic readings of one another's work.
▶ *10 - 11 a.m. For more about Bennett's work, visit*
▶ *www.MarekBennett.com.*
▶ *Free.*
▶ *Zoom. A link to the virtual meeting will be sent out to participants before the event. Sign up: bit. ly/589_marek.*

SATURDAY CONT.

Farmers' markets

BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market - Important Update!: Now offering curbside pick up service only! There is no in-person walk up and shop market for now. Here's the good news: You can still safely/conveniently shop from all of our regular market vendors in one place from your home. Just as in the physical market, our new online ordering system puts all that our producers have to offer in one place for you to browse and choose.
▶ *Snap food benefits, Cash Crop, and our own Food Boost bucks are welcome. SNAP customers can also pre-order through this system - your EBT card will be processed at time of pick up. Crop Cash and Food Boost coupons will be credited to your order to stretch your food dollars. Right now that means $10 becomes $40 with Crop Cash and our Food Boost! You'll need to plan ahead and do shop between 8 a.m. Tues. to 8 p.m. Thur. when order window is open. This gives producers time to pick, pack, bake, make all that you ordered so it's ready for you to drive through and pick up safely on Sat. Sponsored by Post Oil Solutions.*
▶ *Through Saturday, March 27, 2021.*
▶ *Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market, 153 Main St. Information: Sherry: 802-869-2141,* **farmersmarket@postoilsolutions.org,** *pre-order/info: brattleborowinterfarmers-market.org.*

Arts and crafts

Shop the Annual Putney Craft Tour Collection (via Zoom): (See 11/27)
▶ *Through Sunday, November 29.*
▶ *Zoom. Information: www/***putneycrafts.com.**

Tag sales, auctions, bazaars

BRATTLEBORO 62nd First Congregational Church Bazaar: Decorated wreaths, berry bowls, bagged ornaments, knitted and crocheted items such as hats, mittens, gloves, and other hand-crafted goods.
▶ *10 a.m. - 1 p.m. outside. Wear your mask.*
▶ *First Congregational Church of West Brattleboro, 880 Western Ave. Information: 802-254-6731.*

SUNDAY 29

Well-being

The Compassionate Friends of Brattleboro (Online): We are a national self-help organization for families who have had a child die. Meetings are for all families regardless of race, religious orientation, economic background, or the cause and age of the child at death, from pre-birth up. We welcome immediate family members including adult siblings.
▶ *2 - 4 p.m. Our meetings are every other Sunday - we're now meeting virtually. The Compassionate Friends is a national non-profit organization with over 650 chapters in the US and locations in every state.*
▶ *Free.*
▶ *Online. Information: To participate, contact Bev Miller: 802-251-5598,* **bevermont@gmail.com.**

SUNDAY CONT.

Community building

Indigo Radio - Brattleboro Community Radio 107.7 FM: Deepening understanding and making connections. Indigo Radio is a group of area educators seeking to learn through engaging with others in our community and throughout the world. We will be talking about educational and social issues both globally and locally and connecting them to our lives and Brattleboro community.
▶ *12 noon on Sundays. Find us on Facebook:*
▶ *www.facebook.com/indigoradiowvew. Archive recordings of past shows: https://soundcloud.com/user-654648353.*
▶ *Indigo Radio.*

Arts and crafts

Shop the Annual Putney Craft Tour Collection (via Zoom): (See 11/27)
▶ *Zoom. Information:* **putneycrafts.com.**

MONDAY 30

Community building

PUTNEY Putney Food Drop Distribution: All are welcome to come for free produce and some non-perishable items distributed by the Vermont Foodbank and the Putney Foodshelf.
▶ *9:30-10:15 a.m. Masks required. The VT Foodbank truck will park on the side of the road in the big U (Alice Holway Drive). Everyone welcome. No questions asked! Drivers: Shoppers will stay in their cars until called. Until further notice, shoppers can pick up for no more than two households. Bags provided. Volunteers will put them in your trunk. Walkers are welcome too. If you have never participated, volunteers will be available to explain how it works. (Usually the 4th Thur. of every month).*
▶ *Free.*
▶ *Putney Meadows, 17 Carol Brown Way. Information: 802-387-8551.*

Community meals

BRATTLEBORO Everyone Eats! Pick up Ready-Made Meals: This food relief pilot program leverages federal relief funds to engage local restaurants in making to-go meals for anyone in Brattleboro, Guilford, Vernon, Dummerston, Putney whose food security is challenged by the COVID-19 crisis due to un/under-employment, homelessness, other financial challenges. Eight Brattleboro restaurants: A Vermont Table, Dosa Kitchen, Duo, Hazel, Indian Masala, MamaSezz, Porch Too, The Works, and Yalla are providing 150 meals per day.
▶ *4 - 6 p.m. Mon.-Thur. Please do not arrive early. Individuals/households can pick up meals in the parking lot. First-come, first-served. You will receive one individually packaged cold ready-to-eat or heat & serve dinner for each person you request a meal for while supplies last. Organizations can pick up pre-ordered meals at Mama Sezz in West Brattleboro.*
▶ *Through Friday, December 11.*
▶ *Free. (Base cost of each meal is $10 but any donation will be appreciated).*

MONDAY CONT.

▶ *C. F. Church Building, 80 Flat St. Information: brattleboro.com/everyoneeats,* **frances@brattleboro.com** *(questions).*

WEDNESDAY 2

Well-being

Advance Care Planning Directive Q & A Information Session (via Zoom): Advance Care Planning includes discussing choices about end-of-life care with your medical provider, family and others and includes choosing and educating your Health Care Agent and making informed decisions to complete an Advance Directive. Anyone over the age of 18 benefits from having a completed Advance Directive.
▶ *10 - 11 a.m. Hosted by Brattleboro Area Hospice's Taking Steps Brattleboro. Visit www.vtethicsnetwork.org to see forms and obtain info to ask questions on 12/2. For more info about Advance Care Planning or to receive Zoom meeting invite and/or phone call-in number, contact Don Freeman, Program Coord.: 802-257-0775 x 101 or don.freeman @brattleborohospice.org.*
▶ *Free.*
▶ *Zoom.*

Ideas and education

First Wednesdays - The Legacy of Nicholas Black Elk (Online): Historian Damian Costello explores the life of the man behind the famous book "Black Elk Speaks." Nicholas Black Elk's Lakota philosophy can help us see the natural world as a unified whole, and his continued hope amidst great tragedy can inform how we approach contemporary crises. Damian Costello is a historian and the author of "Black Elk: Colonialism and Lakota Catholicism."
▶ *7 - 8 p.m. Hosted by Vermont Humanities Council and Brooks Memorial Library. Series Underwriter: Chroma Technology. Statewide Underwriters: VT Dept. of Libraries & Institute of Museum and Library Services. (Also, 9 additional First Wednesdays talks are available online today, visit: https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/FMfcgxwKjdqlGRgtHPWrRpbRlxdjlMQc).*
▶ *Free.*
▶ *Zoom. Information: Tickets:* **vermonthumanities.org/event/the-legacy-of-nicholas-black-elk-2/.**

To submit your event: **calendar@commonsnews.org**

Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday

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Visit **commonsnews.org** *for more listings with more details*

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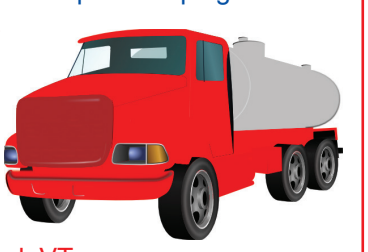

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